PERSING

AN AMERICAN SURNAME
of
FRANCO-GERMAN ORIGIN

AND

PERSON

(AN 18TH CENTURY FORM)

A HISTORY AND GENEALOGY
of some
DESCENDANTS
of

WILLIAM AND BARBARA (DRUM) PERSING/PERSON
of
LOWER HARMONY, NJ

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54432

Second Edition

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CONTENTS

Preface

Introduction

Chapter 1 Pennsylvania Research

Chapter 2 New Jersey Research p.29

Chapter 3 European Research p. 37

Chapter 4 William Persing Sr. p. 49

Chapter 5 Barbara Drum Persing p. 61

Chapter 6 George and Some Descendants p. 63

Chapter 7 Mathias and Some Descendants p. 75

Chapter 8 Jacob Person and Some Descendants p. 89

Chapter 9 William Jr. and Some Descendants p. 99

Chapter 10 John and Some Descendants p. 107

Chapter 11 Philip and Some Descendants p. 123

Chapter 12 Catherine and Margaret

Chapter 13 William Sr.'s Brother Abram

Chapter 14 The Westward Trail

Chapter 15 Today

Chapter 16 Documentation

Chapter 17 Some Persing Military Veterans

To
My brothers, Raymond and Dale
My children, David, Sharon, William and Douglas
My grandchildren
Phillip Persing,
Paul, Sarah and Rebecca Stapley
and
My wife, Jean Diefenderfer Persing

PREFACE

Certainly this is not the first family history that had its beginning rooted in questions of early childhood or later on, in the consciousness of a developing mind. Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? These questions have surely come to the minds of many. Most have let them go unanswered due to a lack of time or determination to find the answers. A few are so intrigued by their origins that they investigate and make a record of their findings. This history is the record of family research, by a 20th century descendant of JOHANN WILHELM PERSING/PERSON, German speaking immigrant to America in the 18th century. As far as I know, no Persing has previously compiled anything more than a family tree of the line from which he has descended. At the urging of family members, I have attempted to bring some of my research and fragments of public historical records into one volume, so that any who are interested might find answers without the time consuming research that would otherwise be required.

But, if I had published the results of my research of the Persing Family merely to inform the curious, I certainly would not have continued with a second edition. The work has been harder, for I am 20 years older than when I began. I have frequently been discouraged by unhelpful responses to my queries especially those to German archives. In the main, sufficient interest has not been generated by the first edition, within the family or in allied families, to give good cause to publish a second edition just for the purpose of expanding the genealogies. Nevertheless the trees herein have been enlarged considerably as the result of contacts with researchers since the earlier revisions. The main objective of research then, for a second edition, has been to identify the birthplace of William and perhaps contact relatives in Germany. This has not been achieved. However in pursuing this goal, I have contacted many more cousins who have added their families to the branches of the trees. So a secondary purpose of giving recognition to them has developed. However, I have chosen not to elaborate on e-mail contacts as on other contacts but have given mention to them and associated them with the lines for which they have provided information. Both regular mail and Internet correspondence have resulted in the satisfaction of having drawn members of the family closer together.

As with the original printing, I want the reader to peruse and then reflect upon the records, noting the events that are embedded in the seemingly impersonal statistical data. There you will find the joys and sorrows of family life in full cycle. From the entrance of a new child into the family to the passing of loved ones, the records are those of family life. The innocence and happiness of children, the anticipation of youth in "growing up", the wonders of love, courtship, marriage and childbirth are all there, but so are the sorrows of infant and untimely deaths, hardships of all kinds, the loneliness of

widows and widowers, the tragedies of divorce, unfaithfulness, epidemic disease and war. You can also see the courage of the American frontiersman as he pushes westward, living under conditions that are only known in our day by those bound by poverty, swallowed up in the sufferings of war or devastated by natural disaster. America is what our family and other immigrant families have built. I am grateful to them.

As patience and diligence are required to discover or recover any truth, so they are necessary for family researchers to uncover family records. Time is the price that is paid. In the degree of detail that is indicated in the contents of these chapters lies the evidence, or lack of it, for time devoted to the task. One can see at a glance the author's predominant attention to a particular branch of the family in a given locality. This history has a conspicuous geography, that of Central Pennsylvania, where the early progenitors of the Persing Family lived their lives and made their contribution to our young nation, to whose land their immigrant ancestors had come, even before it became a nation. Northumberland County is fairly close to the main residences of the author's lifetime, thus facilitating to a large degree, the accessibility of records from which was recovered and documented, the information on which this record is based. To those readers who cannot find the link to their forefathers, I apologize for not having been diligent enough to find it in my research. I invite them or any reader to contact me and I will endeavor to establish that link or answer any questions.

Having found, in part, answers to some of the questions of my childhood and youth, I have desired to record them and share them with my kinsmen. I want also to leave this record for unknowing future generations, who may be, as I am, so far removed from the early days that they will find the task too difficult to undertake. It is my desire to place this history in the libraries of communities and organizations who stand proud of American heritage and wish to preserve record of it, as experienced by individuals and families, for the generations to come. The first edition can be found at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City and is also in the library of the Northumberland County Historical Society in Sunbury, Pa., the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg, Pa, and in several other libraries where I had found much helpful information. I hope to add to this list with this edition.

The facts and information uncovered by this research serve to answer questions that have to do with time. Far more important are these same questions phrased in the context of eternity. I doubt that anyone knows the answers to these questions, when placed in a spiritual context, more certainly than the devout Christian who has diligently studied God's Word and thus discovered the truth about what is wrong with himself and all the rest of mankind. This author, without apology for editorial advantage, is a Christian, and is related not only to

an earthly family, but also spiritually, to Persings and those of other families who have become sons of God through a common faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Lord. We have been placed within his own family, the Family of God. We have found the purpose of life (to glorify God) through acknowledgement of our sins and sinful natures and through repentance and faith in our Savior God. We know that we were created by God, fearfully and wonderfully made, that we are privileged to be his servants, having been redeemed from the sentence of eternal death through the offering of himself for the forgiveness of our sins in the person of his Son at Calvary. Christ's atoning death is attested to by history, having taken place on a cross outside the city of Jerusalem about 29 A.D. We are sure it was not a local event, but of worldwide impact, because its benefit of eternal life is offered freely to all mankind. We know too, that being forgiven of our sins by his grace, through faith in Him, our destiny is to live eternally in heaven with the One who loved us and gave himself for us. Because of this and because of the certainty of Christ's resurrection and of his promise to receive me unto himself, I know where I am going, and that I will find there, in Christ's presence, each one of the Persing Family who has likewise placed his trust in Him. I look forward to that day with anticipation, and maybe a little more so now, humanly speaking, as a result of this research, because I have gained an acquaintance with them from the pages of history. I invite you, the reader, to join us there, on God's terms, and we will have the best ever of family reunions.

Lecanto, Florida
January 1, 2000

INTRODUCTION

Most of us, sooner or later in our lives, wonder what part our families might have had in the events of the past. The first thoughts I had along these lines came to me as I talked about "old country" origins with childhood friends, and found that I did not know from where my ancestors had come. So I quite naturally took the question to my parents. Neither of them had detailed knowledge, but it was not difficult to get the answer for my mother's side. In my boyhood days, we had a reunion of my mother's family annually at the old Central Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania, my home town. In its last years, it was held at Nazareth, Pa., but before it came to an end an extensive genealogy of the descendants of Nicholas Hess was published. Mother was descended from Nicholas Hess (1724-1800) who came to the American Colonies from Zweibrücken, Germany in 1741. A copy of this genealogy is available in the Pennsylvania State Library at the Capitol Complex in Harrisburg. It is recent enough to contain my name and those of my wife and three of our four children. So, I found out early about my mother's German ancestors, but what about the Persings, from where did they come?

My father, Raymond A. Persing Sr.(5443), could not tell me precisely "where we came from" but he did say that the family had come from Alsace/Lorraine. My father told my older brother Raymond Jr. that two brothers came to America and that a third brother remained where they had lived in order to retain the family farm. Other than this, my father could provide only the names of his father, his grandfather, and a few members of their families. Beyond that he knew little else and since a sister of his jealously guarded a family bible, which contained a record of her true age, he could learn no more of his ancestry. This same sister later passed the bible out of the family and it is lost for the present.

So my childhood and early adult years were spent in the dark as to my paternal ancestry. It was not until the early 1960's that I attempted anything serious in finding out more about Persing origins. Often we had wondered about a connection to the family of John J. Pershing, Commander in Chief of the A.E.F. and of the Allied Forces in Europe in World War I. Having moved to Harrisburg, Pa. in 1953 in connection with my employment, I had convenient access to the State Library there. So I undertook to obtain a copy of the Pershing family history titled The Pershing Family in America. I looked through it thoroughly, having on hand my father's known ancestors and familiarity with Persing facial features. I came up with nothing. So I laid the whole matter aside, being taken up with the responsibilities of a young family.

The foregoing is a little background to give the reader an idea as to how I became interested in studying the origins and

history of my father's family. The name Persing appears to be a rare and unique surname in the United States. In all the research I have done to the time of this writing I have found just one family with the surname Persing who is not descended from William and Barbara (Drum) Persing. This is a family in the midwest whose predecessors had changed their name from Pershing to Persing.

Interest was rekindled only after many years had passed when I was approaching retirement from my work as a Central Office equipment engineer for the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania. My good friend, fellow worker and Christian brother, Joe Hollen, was busily involved in researching his family ties, and during one of our lunchtime walks, he told me about the extensive genealogical section at the State Library in Harrisburg. I told him of my earlier interest and lack of success but decided then and there to give it another try. This is where my story really begins but before starting I want to thank those early contacts who had been of particular help in giving me encouragement to go on and providing vital information without which it would have been most difficult to proceed.

I want to firstly acknowledge the part that Joe Hollen had in reawakening my interest. Then many thanks to the staff of the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg for the help that they gave me in getting started. Besides these, various members of the Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Pioneers, notably Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Meiser, Dave and Joan Donmoyer, and Anita Shaffer have been of immense help. The Meisers gave me a tremendous boost with extensive data garnered from their research of pioneer families of Northumberland County, Pa. The Meisers have painstakingly compiled lists[3.6] from Northumberland County, Pa. church, cemetery and miscellaneous records[11-12] and are using them in a series of publications on selected families in that county. Among these records are many early Persings. Joe was quick to furnish me with all that he had compiled on the Persings. They were extremely helpful in sorting out and clarifying the relationships of these early families and provided me with many vital statistics. The Meisers work closely with the Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Pioneers in Northumberland County and most, if not all, of their work is on file at the Northumberland County Historical Society Library located at the Hunter Home, 1150 North Front Street, Sunbury, Pa. 17801. This is also the location of CPGP files.

I want also to thank members of the Palatines to America, especially American members Annette Burgert, Gary Hawbaker, Arta Johnson, Ernest Thode, Leo Wastler and German members Friederich Wollmershaüser and Pfarrer Alfred Hans Kuby for their input in my attempts to locate the European origin of William. I have met many wonderful people among both amateur and professional genealogists. Lastly, I thank all of the Persing family who have contributed from their personal records, without which the trees herein would be much shorter. I shall give acknowledgement to

the many helpful cousins I have met as the story unfolds.

Since the release of the first edition, I have made many inquiries to German archives and historical societies for records of William. I have also searched microfilms of church records as are available from the LDS Family History Centers. When I got on the Internet in 1997, I used it to enlarge the scope of my search. Some of these searches are still in progress but I doubt I will be successful before I publish this edition. Because I may never find out where William was born or where he lived, it is a difficult job to find the actual records as they are located either in the original church or in area archives. Many Germans are involved in genealogy and it is expected that some day there will be indices available so that an emigrant can be found by name only, but for the time being the place of birth or residence must be known to even begin a search. I am currently working on narrowing the field of search to specific towns.

In late 1992, I underwent coronary by-pass surgery and in May of 1993, a gall bladder removal. These have delayed progress in research and although I am slowing down, I have had some more mail correspondence with contacts on Germany. The unification of the two Germanies has caused a revision in German zipcodes resulting in further delays of mail. But in the years since the first edition I have gathered enough information to go ahead with updating it in preparation for a second edition. If I do not have success in locating William's birthplace, the information should be helpful to anyone else who may continue the search. Some day not too far in the future, it will no doubt be possible to make a successful computer search of German records. For now the only promising methods are the LDS records, a visit to German archives, or hiring of a professional German genealogist. The latter two methods are too costly for me to undertake so I continue with correspondence, LDS microfilms and the Internet as my best hope of finding record of William.

In September, 1998 I again underwent surgery, this time for an abdominal aneurysm. Again I have been slowed down in research and revising of the book. In the meantime I am continuing surfing the net and making inquiry on early Persings in New Jersey and the Rhineland.

Due to these delays in researching the time and place of origin, the time of arrival, and the early years in the Colonies, this second edition is being made available without those matters being resolved. Likewise I have not done much research on Catherine (A) or Margaret (B) although this revision adds a few descendants of Margaret. Nor have I added to the short chapter on westward migrations.

I have arranged the book so that looseleaf insertions of additional or revised material may be added as it comes to light. Then too, anyone may conveniently add to the book to

include whatever of their own history and genealogy they desire.

I moved to Florida in the latter part of 1995. This too has delayed progress on the second edition. In the time between the last revision and getting on the Internet in May of 1997 I had very few contacts with new family members via the U.S.Mail or other sources. But since then I have added scores of contacts some of which have produced additions to the trees and commitments to help in the search for European origins. There are possibilities with this tool that were not economically viable with the older methods of research.

As to documentation of the records in the tree branches, I have kept notes and documents to prove the relationship of most of the Persings in them. Much of this is secondary evidence as opposed to primary evidence which would include birth, baptismal, marriage and death certificates. It is not my intention to publish this information for use as legal evidence so I have not made an effort to collect such documents. But it may be useful in that way, e.g. establishing membership in the D.A.R. or the S.A.R. or similar organizations. Many of these records are in the form of notes needing to be searched and analyzed. For the present they are in my personal files but I hope to leave them to an interested family member when I pass on. Also since I have used the computer for recording the data, I have included sources of the documentation in a field named Source in each of the records. They do not appear on the trees printed in this book mainly due to the lack of space on an 11.5 x 8" page. Whoever becomes the custodian of these records will also have copies of the records on computer disks.

Lecanto, Florida
January 1, 2000

CHAPTER 1

PENNSYLVANIA RESEARCH

In the beginning I had only a twenty-year-old tree[1] consisting of the names of my father, his father, mother and grandfather, his brothers and sisters, and some of his aunts and uncles. There was no family bible available from which I could get additional information. My mother had given me the information for the tree at a time when my father was bedridden from a stroke. Though my father was ill, he was able to confirm what Mother had passed on to me. I had kept a piece of paper containing the tree in a 3x5 file box that I used at my job with the Telephone Company. I had always been afraid it would be lost if I had kept it at home.

Initial Research and Development of Line 5 - **JOHN PERSING**

Pennsylvania State Library - County Histories

In the summer of 1980, my friend Joe Hollen and I visited the genealogical section of the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg where he took me on a brief tour, showing me where things were located and the various facilities available such as copiers, census files, card file on surnames, county histories, etc. Knowing that my father had been born in Shamokin, Pa. and that some of his boyhood days were spent at Elysburg, I guessed that I might find something in one of the many county histories on the shelves in the genealogical section of the library. That proved to be a fruitful move since I soon found biographical sketches of a number of Persings in Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pa.[5] by the J. L. Floyd Publishing Co. of Chicago. Because this county history has no author or compiler named, I will refer to it simply as "Floyd" or "Floyd's Annals" in future references to it. Among these sketches was almost a full page, (pages 94 & 95) on AMBROSE PERSING (545) containing about half a column on Mathias Persing (54) son of John (5), son of William. And to my great pleasure, it included a list of Mathias' descendants right on down to my grandfather, Charles E. Persing (544). But Floyd's "Annals" had misnamed my grandfather as Edward E. probably because the researchers had been given that name by one of their sources. It took a little research on my part to be sure that this was indeed an error, since the U.S. Census[57] had shown that there was an Edward E. (471) living in the same period and his age was approximately that of my grandfather. Also it was not uncommon to find different Persing families using the same given names, so I had to be sure that I had the right family. Listed along with Edward E. in Floyd's "Annals" were the names of other sons and daughters of Mathias and I knew these were indeed my father's aunts and uncles, from the list that my mother had given me. I remembered too that Mother had said that my grandfather was known as Ed. (My grandfather died in 1903, long

before I was born.) Floyd's "Annals" said that he had died in 1907 in Altoona, but my cousin Gerry Woodard (54410) told me that he died the year that her parents, M. Bruce (5441) and Wilda were married, i.e. 1903. I checked the birthdates of my grandfather and Edward E. (471), and following a cross check of U.S. census information for Edward E., concluded that someone had given "Floyd" faulty information. This was not the only error of its kind in the sketches of the Persings. They had also misnamed Mathias (2), son of William (*) as "Tyson". I have concluded that "Tyson" came from a nickname, possibly "Teis" for the last portion of Matteis, an alternate spelling of Mathias, and was later assumed to have been "short" for Tyson. This is supported by a cousin, Michael Snyder of Pottstown, Pa., who is descended from William H. (22) and Nancy Pitner, through their daughter Sarah B (220) and Joseph Snyder. Michael had independently reached the same conclusion. Both "Floyd" and contemporary Bell[6], wrote their histories near the start of the 20th century. Mathias (Teis) had died in 1826 and was almost an unknown by 1911, the publishing date of "Floyd's Annals". The information given in them was hardly first hand in regard to early events, although there may have been those living who had heard of them in first hand reports from William (*) and Barbara's children. Neither history gives any indication as to the identity of sources. I learned much later, to my dismay, that information in county histories can be extremely misleading because a good bit of it is hearsay or faulty recollection of contributors. The authors too have made mistakes in compiling biographical information especially when dealing with persons having the same given names.

"Floyd" also included additional sketches on the Persings, one of them giving some sketchy details on the European origin and the family's residence in New Jersey. Even these details proved not to be entirely correct. But in just a few short hours, I had expanded my "tree" to include my ggg-grandfather, William Persing. In addition, I had established a good beginning on separate lines of descent from William and Barbara, one for each of their six sons. "Floyd" had provided me with the first knowledge that William had come from "Germany" and settled in New Jersey. Unfortunately, "Floyd" was not specific about locality on either side of the Atlantic. Since I had a long way to go in developing my own line of Persings, I left New Jersey and "Germany" for future research.

Expansion from County Histories, U.S. Census, Church and Miscellaneous Records

The next step was to start expanding on the six lines I had established. Many Persing families were named in Northumberland County histories[5,6] and I was able to pick up a lot of third generation given names. Some of William's sons' family accounts extended down to the time of the publishing of Floyd's "Annals" and were included in it, but others were not as complete. So I turned to the U.S. Census[57] records to expand my lists, but to

my dismay, there were no wives or children named until 1850. Only age groupings and sex were noted prior to 1850. William and Barbara's grandchildren were born at the turn of the 19th century and were starting their own families around the 1830's, so I had no names of mates or children from the census of 1830 or 1840. This remains a problem and I have not located enough family records to fill in all the blanks on this generation. However, I added considerably to the trees I was developing by analysis of the ages and sex of family members as a means of sorting out parents and cousins with the same given names. The trees included in this edition contain most Persings in Pennsylvania through the 1920 census, the last one available to the public at this writing. During this same period of research at the library, I also referred to church records[11,12], other family genealogies[3] and documents such as vital records of Northumberland Co.[9] and the Commonwealth of Penna.[54] These all were of great help in expanding my initial trees. Although my census records are not an exhaustive list of Persings in the U.S., they do contain documentation of some families and their residences from 1790 through 1870 for states other than Pennsylvania. Though the census records are not included in this book they are available for any who might wish to locate a particular family in a given time frame.

Later the Farrow Funeral Home records[14] proved helpful in expanding on those "lost" third generation children because those records often indicated the deceased's parents.

Contacts with Relatives by U.S. Mail and Telephone

Next, as I had thought the documentation available at the State Library had been fairly well exhausted, I turned to contacting some relatives. Many letters have been mailed and it has been a major disappointment that most have gone unanswered. In 1996 I sent fifty letters to Persings in Shamokin and Sunbury and received no replies at all. I would urge anyone who reads this account to respond to such queries when received, for it is so easy to lay them aside and forget all about them in a short time. In the days in which we now live, it is understandable that there is good cause for suspicion about letters requesting family information. There are many computer-based operations out there whose main object is profit. They offer no family information other than mailing addresses of persons with a common surname. And they don't give this information away. A letter signed by a person of the same surname as yours and asking no money can be counted on as reasonably legitimate.

George Persing, Edith Persing Helt of Harrisburg[2-26]

I also made some telephone calls to Persings living in the Harrisburg area. One of these was George (5122111) who, along with his mother Emily (Young) Persing, gave me the descendants of Philip (5122) and named a number of other families, some of whom I later identified. In late 1991, George and his aunt,

Edith Persing Helt (512210), responded to a request for help in identifying the family of Philip (513) whose name I had acquired from the Farrow Funeral Home records[14] compiled by Joe Meiser. George had told me that there was a "near" relationship between H Walter (51221) and Reuben L (51311). Running this down helped to identify about thirty Persings, some of who were among George's original recollections. Edith Helt, an aunt of George's, was also helpful in identifying Ruhanna (512A), as a daughter of Daniel (512). Previously I had thought that Ruhanna was a daughter of Daniel (48) until Edith's evidence listed her with the family of Daniel (512).

Nancy (Hoffman) Persing/ Kimber & Richard of Ohio[2-28,29]

To contact Persings in distant Pennsylvania localities and in other states, I had obtained a list of addresses from Richard Persing (512521) of South Euclid, Ohio. This list was essentially comprised of telephone directory listings. I had contacted Richard through information given to me by Nancy Persing of Middletown, Pa. who lived near my home in Hershey. She told me that her ex-husband Sidney (512541) was a cousin of Richard and that Richard might be able to expand on this line. She also added many names to the tree of John (5). I later met Richard while in Ohio on a visit to my wife's relatives in the Youngstown area. One of my earlier leads had included information from the 1840 Census of Ohio[57] but as it turned out, Richard had no knowledge of these earlier Persings in Ohio but confirmed and added to what Nancy Persing had given me. On visiting Richard at his home in South Euclid, OH, I found his father Kimber (51252) was living with him and that he bore a striking resemblance to my own father. Richard has continued to stay in touch with me over the years. He and his niece Lynn Clark and her husband, Dan have contributed a lot of information to the descendants of Kimber Persing.

Harry and Sarah[2-23,24]

I had long known that there were Persings living in the Allentown area other than my brothers. In 1986, while in Allentown to visit a sick aunt, I stopped at Persing Auto Sales at 4th & Susquehanna Sts., and talked with Roger Persing (5111141), the owner. Roger referred me to his parents Harry (511114) and Ruth who were living at Waldheim Park. My wife and I went to see them and found Harry was descended from George (5111) but he could not go back any farther. He gave me a number of names that I laid aside until I could somehow tie them into one of the five Persing lines in Pennsylvania. Sometime later, I went to Sunbury to check courthouse records[9] and decided to look up some Persings while in the area. The first was Sarah Jane (51113B). Sarah, at first, did not answer the doorbell, but being somewhat persistent, I consulted a neighbor who offered to call on the phone and tell her who it was that was at her door. That got an entrance for my wife and me and we had a pleasant hour-long talk. Our visit with Sarah paid off in that she

provided the clue which helped me determine the parents of George (5111) as Jacob (511) and Elizabeth. I had long had a listing from the U.S. Census of 1860 for J., E., J.A., H., G., and A. Persing in Columbia County but could not identify them. Sarah gave me a considerable number of names which identified these as Jacob (511), Elizabeth, Julie Ann, Hester, George and Adam. I had previously determined that the grandfather of Harry S. (511114) would have to be one of two unidentified Georges in later census listings but could not pin him down because there were no brothers or sisters identified by name in 1860, only initials. Sarah knew that Harry in Allentown was a near relative and her mention that Adam (5112) and Harry's father George (5111) were brothers was the key to linking these names to the 1860 census record of Jacob and Elizabeth and so identifying about thirty more Persings. Harry is now deceased having passed on in 1997.

In this particular branch, I also had the pleasure of meeting Charles A (511115) [2-25] at the Harrisburg Hospital some years before when he was a patient there at the same time that my mother was also hospitalized. We were not able to establish a connection at that time but did note that his mother and my father's mother were both surnamed Raker. Later the connection was made through the above identification of the 511 line. Charles passed away in 1993.

Lillie Poff Persing[2-32]

Although I have wanted to visit and interview all Persing families in Shamokin, Pa., an illness in 1992 greatly interfered with carrying out my plans and my move to Florida in 1995 canceled them altogether. I have managed to visit only Lillie Poff Persing w/o Harry (513112), deceased, about 1991. Lillie gave me information on her children, whose names I had gathered from the U.S. Census and elsewhere. She also referred me to Amy Britton Rhodes[2-30] in Sunbury and Helen Culp[2-31] in York, Pa. who both gave me much help in the way of vital statistics for the descendants of John Wesley Persing (5131).

Zelna (Stokes) Persing, Vernita Sheley[2-33,34]

I had long wanted to contact some California Persings so I sent off a letter to C. Ely Persing (53121) in Colma (Daly City), California. Some weeks later I received a phone call from Vernita Persing Sheley (531210) and her mother Zelna w/o C. Ely. They both were very interested in knowing more of the Persing origins and it was not long before we exchanged lists. This contact helped me to establish my first statistical information on the last of my g-grand uncles, Benjamin (53), for whom I had only a birth year from Floyd's "Annals". For them, it was their first knowledge of John (5) and William (*). Zelna and Vernita were the inspiration necessary for me to make a documented record of my research and findings on the Persing family and this record was begun at their suggestion. Beside that, it was a

great thrill for me to learn that C. Ely and his family are also members of the family of God that I mentioned in the preface to this publication. C. Ely was a pastor in his lifetime as is also the husband of Vernita, Donald B. Sheley. Zelna suffered a stroke in 1985 and became semi-comatose. In October of 1987 she passed into the Lord's presence, there to be reunited with her beloved husband, C. Ely.

Amos Persing, DDS/ Pearl Rohrbach / Martha Schooley[2-1,35,36]

I had known Pearl (Morehart) Rohrbach of New Columbia, Pa. for many years. She was the wife of a second cousin of mine (Emanuel Rohrbach 541A1) whose mother was Susan Persing (541A). So I wrote to her to see if she had any family bible records. She gave me some information that was extracted from a tree that had been drawn up in the past by the family of Amos Persing, MD (5411) of Watsontown, Pa. This tree confirmed much of "Floyds" information and gave the additional benefit of being the first document I had uncovered bearing the name of William's wife, Barbara. The tree was particularly devoted to the descendants of William (*) and Barbara through their son, John (5). It was helpful too in confirming or providing vital statistics. Martha (54110) and her husband Bill Schooley also provided information which confirmed vital statistics that I had gathered on this, my own line of descendants.

John Penman[2-53]

John Penman is a GG grandson of Isaac N Teitsworth (5A5), son of Sarah Catherine Persing (5A) and Isaac Teitsworth. John was researching his family history and found a link to the Persings. He contacted me and gave me a complete list of S. Catherine's 14 children. One of her sons, Alfred was killed at Cedar Mountain. He was with the 46th Pa. Volunteers. John also added to information on John (46) and Mary (Teitsworth).

Donald G. Persing[2-54]

While staying at my son's home in Lancaster, Pa., I called Donald (512222) who lived in Lancaster and he gave me information on his family. Although I have not maintained contact with him, I am grateful for the additions to the trees that he has made.

Salette Latas, Amy Rhodes and Helen Culp[2-27,30,31]

In early 1991, I received a letter from Salette (Schive) Latas, a great-great granddaughter of Henry and Ruhanna (Persing) (512A) Schive. She had been researching her ancestors in Northumberland County and was referred to me by the Northumberland County Historical Society. She and her sister Laurie Schive had done some research at the NCHS and had also talked with Joe Meiser in trying to identify the parents of her great-great grandmother, Ruhanna Persing Schive. They also were

interested in tracing the "German" origins of the Persing family.

Joe Meiser had originally listed[3.6d] Daniel (10Apr1825) as son of William (43) but at some point in time had changed this to Daniel (1829-1902). In this new list, Daniel (1829-1902) appeared as the husband of Anna Derr, and Ruhanna as one of their children. Perhaps this came about from information I had given Joe although I can find no record of ever having identified Ruhanna until she appeared on Joe's list as a daughter of Daniel (1829-1902) and Anna Derr. But Floyd[5] had said that Daniel, Anna Derr's husband had died in 1883, not 1902, and this was confirmed by Grace Granzow[2-22] whom I shall mention later.

The 1820's and 1830's had produced five or six Daniels, and it was a very difficult job to sort them out from the meager records available for the period. A while after Joe's revision was made, I uncovered a family bible[4.1] of William Jr's (4) family indicating William (43) had died in Dec 1827. Joe's original record had also indicated that he had been married[3.6d] ca 13Jul1827 to a Catherine Runkel. Another record[31] gave the date as 24Jun1827. In any event William (43) was not the father of Daniel (1829-1902) and was unlikely to have been the father of Daniel (10Apr1825). A record[11-1] of births at St. Peters Blue Church, confirms that Daniel (10Apr1825) was the son of William Jr (4) and Margaret (Dimmick) Persing. These records made it necessary to place Daniel (10Apr1825) as (48) in my trees. I advised Joe of these findings and he revised his information accordingly. Unfortunately Ruhanna moved right along with Daniel to the new spot and we both thought that we had it right.

As a result of reading a copy of Schuyler Brossman's article[33] on the Persing family which I had written for his columns 1276 and 1277, Salette placed a query in Our Keystone Families[33] and was contacted by Grace Granzow[2-22] of Hummelstown, Pa. Grace is a great granddaughter of Daniel (48) and Anna (Derr) Persing, knew Anna personally, and had in her possession, among other things of Daniel and Anna, a list of their children written in Anna's own hand. The list included all who had been identified by Joe Meiser and myself, except Ruhanna. This was the first clue that we were wrong about Ruhanna's being a daughter of Daniel (10Apr1825). However, it was also certain from Ruhanna's death certificate that her father was named Daniel but I was unable to identify which of the five or six was the right one. It didn't help that her mother was not named on the certificate. But I later found that it did show Ruhanna's birthplace as Juniata Co.

The matter remained a mystery until I had an interview with another relative, Sarah Giglio[2-4] to clear up some unresolved questions about the known near relationship of Reuben L (51311) to Harry Walter (51221). They were thought to be cousins. More specifically they were second cousins. In running this down, I

met with George Persing (5122111)[2-26] and his aunt Edith Alice Helt (512210)[2-26] daughter of Harry Walter. After resolving the relationship of Harry and Reuben, Edith showed me an old manila envelope on the back of which appeared all the children of Daniel (512) and (Hannah?) Templin Persing including the name Ruhanna and her husband Henry Schive. "Hannah" appeared to be a guess on the envelope and may have come from knowledge of Hannah Persing (6C) Templin (1824-1916) living in the area. But Daniel (512) was married to Catherine Templin. Since I already had placed the names of Ruhanna's parents, brothers and sisters in my tree of line 5 there was no doubt that we had found the parents of Ruhanna to be Daniel (512) and Catherine. Unfortunately this Daniel's parents were not named on the envelope but since I already had them in my tree, I had only to add Ruhanna to Daniel's (512) offspring and remove her as an offspring of Daniel (48).

I doubt that there has been a more difficult problem of relationship to resolve than this one because it also included identifying the family of Daniel's brother Philip (513). The help of Amy Britton Rhodes[2-30] of Sunbury and Helen Culp[2-31] of York was invaluable in identifying the 513 line and in confirming the relationship between Reuben Lawrence (51311) and Harry Walter (51221).

Development of Lines 1 and 2 - **GEORGE** and **MATHIAS PERSING**

Of the five families who left New Jersey for Northumberland County, Pa., George's (1) descendants were the most difficult to track down. One of the reasons for the difficulty was that I was brand new to genealogical research and there were many things I had to learn about the task and about the localities where I was conducting the research. I had to learn that at the time of George's arrival in Northumberland County it was much larger than at present, covering an area across northern Pennsylvania from the Lehigh to the Allegheny rivers. Also I knew nothing of the Persing family other than what my father had told my mother. When I discovered[5] the names of William (*) and his sons, I was far better equipped to begin the development of family trees, and decided on one for each of the six sons. Still, as names were coming to light, I had no idea of relationships except as given in Floyd's "Annals"[5]. And apart from mention of George (1) as one of William's(*) sons, "Floyd" gave us no information on his family. This was probably due to the political subdivision of Northumberland into numerous other counties. George and his descendants ultimately wound up in Columbia County, which was not the Subject County of Floyd's "Annals". Neither do Columbia County Histories[16,17] contain any biographical information on George. But there are references to him in both Bell's History of Columbia and Montour Counties and Historical and Biographical Annals of Columbia and Montour Counties[17] published by J. H. Beers Co.

The U.S. Census had given some help on George's descendants with listings of Persings in Catawissa Township, Columbia County in 1820. For a long time I knew only of John (11), George (12) and William W (13), but with no primary evidence of their relationship to George (1). The names William, John, George, and Mathias seemed to be prominent in all the families and each of William's (*) sons had his share of these names in their families. So there was much confusion in sorting them out. I ran into a bit of luck one day when I picked up the Harrisburg Patriot and found an article about the work of Dr. Joseph Meiser[3.6d] and Mrs. Meiser on pioneer families of Northumberland County. I immediately wrote to Joe, who then lived in Canada but had a home too in Elysburg, Pa. Joe soon replied and shared all that he and his wife had found on the Persings in their research. Joe's lists[3.6d] cleared up some of the problems that I had in sorting out those cousins with the same names. But Joe had difficulty too in finding record of George (1) and I was still left with some uncertainties about his children. So I set the line of George aside for a while and concentrated on the others.

After a time, when I had completed the study of census records and assigned all that were clearly identifiable to their particular branches of the tree, I again took up tracing George's line. From the U.S. Census, I had learned that George lived in Catawissa and Roaring Creek Townships in Columbia County. George hadn't moved from his homestead, these different locations were the result of the political subdivisions of first, Northumberland County, and then of Catawissa Township. In fact, Roaring Creek had been kicked back and forth between the new counties of Montour and Columbia. Eventually I had a good handle on George's location and was able to proceed in my research. Lack of county records in those early years made it difficult to find out much of George or any of the early Persings in Northumberland County. Only a few tax lists[9] were available and they, more or less, only confirmed the presence of the Persings in certain years. But now, in concentrating on George's line, I found that there were early Pennsylvania wills on microfilm in the Pennsylvania Archives at the Capitol Complex. During some renovations to the Archives, these films were temporarily placed in the genealogical section of the State Library and that is how I learned that they existed. Finally one day, I got to the microfilms of wills and lo and behold who shows up in Will #6 of Columbia County[19-1] but George (1) Persing. Armed now with a list of his heirs, I proceeded to confirm my list of George's children and make some final tree placements of the cousins that had been such a problem.

Whenever I learned of the particular location of an early family, I would try to confirm my records by locating their graves. I found a number of Persing graves in the Bear Gap Methodist Episcopal Cemetery[11-5] in Columbia County east of Route 54. A member of the Hoagland family living along that route pointed out the cemetery to me. The church is no longer there

and I have been told that its records are lost. However the Meisers and others have recorded burials in the graveyard[12]. Although I could not find his grave, it is possible that George (1) is buried there in one of many unmarked graves. But I found a number of his descendant's graves. Notes in the tree of George's line indicate them.

It was in George's will[19-1] that I first discovered that the name of his wife was Hannah. I had previously found a reference[No] to a George PESING of Hope, New Jersey being married to an Eva Luckenbach and even now think that this might be the same person as George (1). Finding the name Hannah does not exclude that possibility since Eva might have been a prior wife who had died.

What is known of George? Until I located a record in 1996 of the McWilliams family[55] containing birthdates of George and his offspring, I knew little about George, nothing more than I had dug out of public records. I had personally visited three of his descendants [2-2,4,6] and only one[2-2] of them knew of him and the others didn't know of either him or his father William (*). That he was the pioneer Persing in the area is certain from the records[9-1] found and that he owned land now in Cleveland Twp., Columbia Co. is also quite clear. It was in the McWilliams' record that I discovered that George was involved in the Revolutionary War. For this information I am indebted to Nancy Sweeney of St. Petersburg, FL. A lifelong amateur genealogist, Mrs. Sweeney attends family auctions and purchases miscellaneous collections of family records offered for sale at them. She also has a vast amount of newspaper clippings collected over the years, having important genealogical data. It was from a query she had placed in the Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's publication The Pioneer[82] that I made contact with her and found that she had the information on George and his family. Her query was for the surname of Peter Hoffman's wife who was Hannah Persing (1B), George's daughter.

Contacts with Relatives - Line 1 - George

David[2-6]

David Persing (15211) lived on the fringe of Knoebel's Grove at Elysburg, Pa. For many years David managed the rides at this well known and popular amusement park. I had found references to him and his wife in a volume[8] published on the bicentennial of Ralpho Township in Northumberland County. I thought that he would be an interesting subject to interview and subsequently my wife and I visited David and Gladys at their home. We had a delightful time and as a result of the visit expanded the tree of George's line considerably, most particularly with the descendants of Peter (15). David told me that this family line had at one time farmed about one thousand acres in Columbia County but that eventually these lands were all sold as interest in farming waned in recent generations. David knew his ancestry

back to Peter (15) but had no information about George (1) or his family. From a later (1991) analysis of subdivisions of Columbia County and of deeds[19-2] recorded in the courthouse at Bloomsburg, it appears that David's property may have been a part of George's original land. Through the Social Security Death Index[62] I found that David passed away in 1995.

Harry M. Jr., M.D.[2-8]

David (15211) told me that his cousin Harry (15232) had done some research on the family and that he was living in Altoona, Pa. I wrote to Harry and obtained from him a tree[2-8] that he had worked up. Included in this information was a list of doctors in his family back to Revolutionary times. The list is essentially a substantiation of his eligibility for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution. If I can verify William (*) and George's (1) enrollment in the New Jersey Militia he would also be eligible as a descendant of them.

Jack[2-7]

Jack (151211) was employed by the Bell Telephone Company and was a natural to contact about his ancestors since I worked there too. Jack knew back as far as his grandfather but it was not until I got additional information from David (15211) that I was able to identify Jack's line of descent.

Burl[2-2]

Munsell's History of Tioga County[20] told me of John (11) Persing, his wife and one child going to Gaines, Tioga County in 1814. The occasion to look up Burl (11141) came one June afternoon in 1985 as my wife and I were returning home from the funeral of my cousin Gerry Woodard (54410) at Eldred, Pa. The route took us right by the home of Burl and Marj on U.S. Route 6, which runs through Gaines. We had a nice visit and Burl remembered much of what his father had told him of his grandfather Reuben (111) who fought in the Civil War. He agreed with my supposition that John had gone to Gaines to work in the lumber business. Many descendants of John (11) and Reuben (111) live in the area to the present time. Burl and Marj added extensively to his line of descendants and elaborated on some of the persons for whom I already had some information. They also have put me in touch with others of the line who in turn have added to their tree. Marj also told me of another clan of Persings living in the area of Tioga, Pa. I had not contacted any of these Persings at the time I visited Burl but suspected that they are descendants of Reuben (412) of whom there is also record in Tioga County[20-22]. I have since confirmed this to be the case. Burl has passed away since the first edition and is buried at the Knowlton Cemetery in Tioga County.

Sarah Persing Giglio[2-4]

I got in touch with Sarah Persing Giglio (11130) through Lucy Yanoni Persing w/o Marshall H (11131), both now deceased. Lucy had received a letter of inquiry about the Persings from Zelna Persing[2-33] w/o C.Ely (53121), also deceased. Lucy forwarded this letter to Sarah Persing Giglio and she in turn forwarded it to me, having heard from her cousin Burl (11141) that I was interested in the family genealogy. Sarah provided additional information for Line 1 especially the links to a number of Persings in West Virginia and Ohio. I had, by the time of Sarah's contact, already established contact with Zelna in California but I gained additional data on Line 1, for which I am grateful to Sarah. Later on, in November of 1987, my wife and I visited Sarah at her home in Orchard Park, N.Y. and picked up a few more details about her family, which I have included in biographical sketches. Marshall's son Ron of Cooperstown, Pa. has also kept in touch with me.

Fred [2-56]

I was given Fred (152311) Persing's address through Charlotte Walter of the Northumberland County Historical Society, wrote to him and received information in reply that tied in with data I later received from Harry[2-8] (15232) and David[2-6] (15211).

Nancy Sweeney[2-55]

Nancy Sweeney is a gg granddaughter of Hannah (1B) Persing and Peter Hoffman. She had placed a query in the CPGA's publication The Pioneer[82] about the maiden name of Peter Hoffman's wife, Hannah. I responded to the query with the surname of Hannah since I had it in my records. As an added bonus to my response, Nancy sent me information on George's (1) line up to Olive May (151A) Persing McWilliams and her daughter Katie. This information included George's birth date, which had eluded me from the beginning of my research. Nancy's husband, Jim is a baseball card dealer and attends various auctions to buy cards. Nancy attends these auctions too and buys genealogical materials. She has been interested in genealogy since her early teen years. She had picked up some family records at a McWilliams auction in Mt. Carmel, Pa. and among the ones from this auction was an account of Olive May's genealogy back to George Persing. There was also a note that Olive May's daughter Kate had made a statement that indicated George Persing had been involved in the Revolutionary War. Although nothing definite has been found to confirm his participation, I think that her statement is true because in 1777 New Jersey passed a law requiring all men between 16 and 50 to report to their local militia for drills. Both George and his father William were within that age group in 1777. Another indication of their service is that both possessed land in Northumberland County, Pa. Land in Pennsylvania was often granted to Revolutionary War

officers as reimbursement for unpaid salaries for service in the war. They in turn sold portions of the grants to their men. That is how I think the Persings became residents of Northumberland County, Pa. George's brothers followed him there in the ensuing years. There are militia records at Trenton, New Jersey but I have not found either George or William (*) in them. But my search has been less than thorough.

Joan[2-3]

Joan (111230) called me in 1991 from Baltimore after having contacted one of the Chaffees (1112B?) and learning that I was interested in Persing history. She gave me additional information on descendants of Reuben (111) and is actively seeking vital statistics from her family. Joan also gave me some information on Riley (215) and I have tried to contact his descendants in Kansas City, KS but have not heard from them. Joan's information was one of the prompts that resulted in starting this second edition of the Persing/Person family history. We keep in touch via e-mail.

Contacts with Relatives - Line 2 - Mathias

Eleanor Hauck Persing (w/o Walter C.) and Florence Persing Yeager[2-9,12]

All the information that I had on Mathias (2) was developed from Floyd's "Annals"[5], the U.S. Census[57] and various church records[11]. I knew from William's (*) will[Na] that Mathias died between 1820 and 1829, but could not find much more about him. On a trip to Northumberland's courthouse, I located an inventory[9-2] of his estate. The date it was filed fixed his death in the year 1826. Another visit to Elysburg in 1986 produced a contact with descendants. I stopped to see Rudy (213212) but since he was not home I was referred to his mother, Eleanor Hauck Persing w/o Walter C. (21321), deceased. She identified her husband's father and some other Persings of unknown lineage but could not add much to enlarge her husband's tree. However she referred me to Florence Persing Yeager (21320) in Shamokin as one who might help. I made arrangements to visit Florence but on arriving in Shamokin found that she was hospitalized due to a fall the previous weekend. Not to be deterred, I went to the hospital and interviewed her at bedside. She suggested that I see her stepson who lived nearby and have him look up some family records kept at her house. These records and the talk with Florence helped me to identify many descendants of Illif (213) and Israel (214) about whom I had been greatly confused.

Donald and David[2-17,18]

In interviewing Charles (511115) of Middletown, Pa., I was told of a Persing in the area of Cherry Hill, N.J. who was also involved in family research. Charles could not remember the name and I have yet to make contact with this person. But, in trying, I called Donald (226531) of Belmawr, N.J. It turned out that Donald and his brother David, (226532) of Elkhorn, Nebraska had been doing some of their own research. Through contact with them, I expanded on the line of Lambert Pitner Persing (226) for whom I had only a name and birthdate. Some of these descendants live in Indiana and Michigan. These cousins too, were unaware of their ancestry farther back than Lambert (226). David in 1998 got in touch with me via e-mail and sent me details on his immediate family. He continues to be one of the regular contacts with cousins I have maintained over the years.

Mabel w/o Richard[2-19]

Gifford Persing (622411) of Orlando, FL put me in touch with Mabel Persing w/o Richard (226211) who had called him from Frostproof, Fla. inquiring about a family connection. Gifford told her of my interest and we exchanged letters, adding to the descendants of Samuel Pardoe Persing (2266). In the Spring of 1994, my wife and I visited her in Frostproof and made some corrections to their placement in the tree of Mathias (2).

E. Hope Conrad[2-15]

Hope Conrad is a great-granddaughter of Mahala (Moyer) Sober. Mahala Moyer was a sister of Susan (Moyer) Persing, wife of Caleb F Persing (222). Hope had been looking for a Persing contact and had tried to contact Grace (Martin) Persing, wife of John (51254) and a contributor to Ralph Township: History, Heritage, and Hearsay[8]. Unable to find a phone number, she asked for any local Persing listing and got in touch in this way with David (15211) who lives near Elysburg. David's wife, Gladys, remembered that I had interviewed them about their family and put Hope in touch with me. Hope provided me with some interesting details about the family of Caleb (222) and their connection with the Sober family in Virginia. These are included in biographical sketches of the descendants of Mathias (2) in chapter 7.

Elizabeth R. Kirkpatrick[2-16]

Elizabeth Kirkpatrick is the wife of Robert B. Kirkpatrick (2241B1), son of James A and Magnolia Persing (2241B) Kirkpatrick. She was referred to me by Joe Meiser[12] but had difficulty in contacting me because of several moves I had made between 1986 and 1988. Later, in 1990, she again visited Joe Meiser and had a look at the first edition of this history, which I had given to Joe in the meantime. She has given me much information on the descendants of Morris (224) and has a lot of

documentation on this line, including Morris' Civil War records. The information she provided is included in the biographical sketch of Morris in Chapter 7. Elizabeth added her name to my list of e-mail contacts in 1997. She continues to be a source of information through her Internet searches.

Dorothy Flugge Persing[2-13]

Dorothy is the wife of Edward T. (21512). I have written to Dorothy concerning the descendants of Riley (215) but have not received a reply. Nevertheless, she had given much information on Riley and his descendants to Joan (111230) who has passed it along to me. I have included this information in a biographical sketch on descendants of Mathias (2) in chapter 7. An interesting aberrance in the Persing family's understanding of their origin is that of this family. They are of the opinion that Riley's father Jacob (21) was born in England. However, "Floyd"[5] says he was born at Irish Valley, Northumberland Co., Pa. His mother, Katie Baker was of English ancestry. This may have introduced confusion about his birthplace or she might have been in England when he was born. It seems unlikely though that farmers had the funds for such a trip.

Michael Snyder[2-14]

I failed to give recognition to Michael Snyder, a descendant of William H Persing (22) through daughter Sarah (22A) and Joseph Snyder in the first edition although I mentioned him in the early part of this chapter. Mike wrote to me, and after detailing his connection with Persings, commented on the name Tyson used by Floyd in their Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, Pa.[5]. He gave support to my conclusion that Tyson was an assumption by Floyd's "Annals"'s informants that "Teis" Persing was a nickname standing for Tyson. However the records clearly indicate that the nickname was associated with Mathias Persing (2).

Joseph Persing Conrad[2-11]

Joseph Persing Conrad is a grandson of Joseph Persing (21311). He had talked with his aunt, Otie Shuck (21311A) and contacted me after I had gone to see her. He was interested in the relationships between Persings and provided a few details on himself and his grandparents. He never followed up on his correspondence but I added him to the tree of line 2 through information provided to me by Thom Persing (213114).

Thomas E Persing[2-10]

I contacted Thom by U.S. Mail and found him to be much interested in family connections. Thom has been a Superintendent of Schools in several communities in Pennsylvania. He is a brother of Otie Shuck mentioned above. He forwarded some details on his family and suggested he might be able to do some research

in Germany as he visited there in connection with his work at times. Although retired he has taken temporary superintendent-ships in the vicinity of his home and is so busy that he has not had time to follow up on his suggestion.

Charlotte Hoyer[2-12a]

Charlotte Hoyer is a great granddaughter of Israel A Persing (214). She heard of my interest in Persing genealogy through contact with Joan Keeny of Line 1. She furnished much information on Israel and his family and continues to be in touch with me, most recently via E-mail. She is the provider of much of the information on Israel (214) and Charlotte Kemp (2140) included in Chapter 7. She has an interest in research in Germany but doesn't know where to start searching. Charlotte has been one of the more interested contributors to this book and deserves recognition for it. I expect she will be of much help in adding to the trees through her Internet research.

Development of Lines 4 and 6 - **WILLIAM JR.** and **PHILIP PERSING**

The only information I had gathered on Lines 4 and 6 was obtained from Floyd's "Annals"[5], the U.S. Census[57] and certain family genealogies[3] that I had scanned for marriages to Persings. Outside of trying to locate living descendants in Northumberland Co., I had only the resources of the mail and telephone to proceed further with this line.

Contacting Relatives - Line 4 - William Jr.

The following contacts were made by mail at random with no knowledge of the lines from which the addressees were descended:

Jane White Persing w/o Russell[2-21]

I wrote a few letters to Persings living in western Ohio towns. Clyde was among these. I received a reply from Mrs. Jane Persing, w/o Russell (42311), deceased. Jane told me that she was the last Persing living in Clyde. The Persings were pioneer settlers[64-13] in that area, having arrived in 1840 and I knew from census records that there were a good number of them in the Sandusky area at one time. In fact my aunt, Floy (5440) and uncle, Harry (5442) were born in that area of Ohio. I do not know why my grandparents were there, nor when they went or when they returned to the Shamokin area. My father, who was born after they returned to Pennsylvania, remembered that his sisters talked about Sandusky when they were children, but I never asked him why they were there. From what I know of my grandfather's occupation as a wheelwright, I have concluded that he was there working for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Jane was unable to give me any details about her husband's family but sent my letter to Russell's brother Dean W Persing (42312) of Storm Lake, Iowa. Her doing so led to a major discovery in the project, which I

have elaborated on in the next paragraph.

Dean W. Persing[2-20]

Of all the contacts I have made, few had shown as much enthusiasm as Dean had. On receiving the letter from Jane, Dean called me on the phone to indicate his interest and to tell me that he had a family bible[4.1] containing a record of the descendants of William Persing Jr. (4). The bible also contained an insert giving a brief account of William (*), his brother Abram and their emigration to the Colonies. It said that they had come from "Swatrakee, Germany" and settled near Belvidere, N.J. Unfortunately, the information appears to be corrupted in several ways and the place in "Germany" is of uncertain identity. However, I had some material on hand pointing to the Dukedom of Zweibrücken, an area which was part of Alsace/Lorraine in the mid-18th century, as a possible place of origin. I had found records[75] of a number of Persings living in the Rhineland town of Daun in the time frame 1732 to 1764. Daun lies about 75 miles NNW of the city of Zweibrücken and at the extreme limits of "Alsace/Lorraine" but at least it was a reference point for the surname Persing. Further research of church records in the Saarland, the Rhineland-Pfalz, or the French Departments Bas Rhin, Moselle and Muerthe-et-Moselle may be necessary to find William's actual residence.

Dean provided a detailed account of the migration of his line of Persings to the Midwest. From his information, I learned that Mathias (42) had exchanged land in Ithica, N.Y. for land owned by his father-in-law, James Cleveland, in Ohio and had moved there in 1840. I had gathered some information on this family from a volume on the Moses Cleveland Family[3.1] which was available in the Pennsylvania State Library. Hannah's father and President Grover Cleveland were descended from Moses Cleveland, surveyor of the Western Reserve. An interesting story is related in one of the documents[64-13] quoted in chapter 9, concerning the trip to Clyde from Buffalo. Dean added greatly to the list of descendants of William Jr. (4), some of which would be of great value later in identifying other Persings. I would like to stress again the importance of accumulating data on your family at an early age if you have any interest at all, because the best informants are the older generations and if you wait too long they will have passed from the scene. Many times I have wished that my father was here so I could get answers to questions such as why were his father and mother in Ohio. Dean was past eighty when I contacted him and was a storehouse of information for his family. I had been fortunate enough to reach him before he passed from the scene. After his wife died, he moved to Columbus, Ohio and became acquainted with Mrs. Jean Hall, librarian for Palatines to America. It was Mrs. Hall who provided a key bit of information on descendants of Adam Drum[3.7] (ca 1660) of Ulmet, Germany who was the German progenitor of at least some of the Drum families who came to America. My wife and I visited Dean and his sister, Jo (4231A) in the summer of 1990.

They warmly received us, and although we were not complete strangers, we found their hospitality outstanding. We kept in touch at Christmas time for two years. It was with much sadness that I learned through Social Security death records[62] that Dean had passed away on 07Jul1992.

William Persing Jr. (4) had eighteen children and for a long time Dean was the only one of this line with whom I had made contact. His bible account[4.1] confirmed "Floyd's" reference to the "German" origin and also gave us the name of William's (*) brother who according to my father came to America with him.

Grace Granzow[2-22]

In 1991, I was contacted by two Persing descendants regarding one Ruhanna Persing (512A). One of these, Grace Granzow turned out to be a descendant of William Jr. (4). She is a great-granddaughter of Daniel Persing (48) and Anna (Derr) Persing. Grace contacted me from her home in Hummelstown, Pa. after having talked to Salette Latas, gg- granddaughter of Daniel (512) and Catherine (Templin) Persing. Salette had been of the opinion that she was a descendant of Daniel (48) and had placed a query in Schuyler Brossman's column Our Keystone Families[33] for more information. Grace's husband Fritz had just happened to pick up a copy of the Middletown Press and Journal[33] which contained Salette's query. Grace confirmed that Salette was not a descendant of Daniel by producing a list of children of Daniel (48) and Anna (Derr) which did not include Salette's gg-grandmother Ruhanna. The list was in Anna's own handwriting. Grace Granzow has a trunk which belonged to Daniel (48) and Anna and which contains a number of their possessions and important documents bearing vital statistics. Included is an 1876 newspaper article on Philip Persing (6) which was written before he passed away in 1879 at 101 years of age. Unfortunately I have not been able to view this article.

John Penman[2-53]

John added to details on John Persing (46) and Mary Teitsworth. See Line 2 for additional information given on his connection to that line.

Contacting Relatives - Line 6 - Philip

Betty Jane Persing Dyke[2-43] and Elsa Jones Persing[2-45] w/o Donald B Persing

Among the earliest contacts I had in Ohio were the Persings living in the Youngstown area. My wife's sister lives in Brookfield, Ohio near to Youngstown and this made it easy to call a number of Persings in the Youngstown phone book. A call to Donald B (622132), deceased, brought a good lead to me from his widow, Elsa Jones Persing. She gave me the information necessary to contact Betty Jane (622150) in Negley, Ohio. Betty

Jane is very much interested in family history and she made extensive additions to the tree of descendants of Philip (6). At my initial contact, Betty Jane did not know any ancestors preceding her gg-grandfather, Abraham (62). I am always thrilled when I can pass along some additional information to cousins that they had not previously known. It has also been my pleasure to visit with Betty Jane and her good husband Raymond Dyke at their home in Negley. Betty Jane told me of the migration of Abraham (62) to Venango County, Pa. and so identified many listings in the U.S. Census, which I had gathered prior to contacting her. Her grandfather, William M (6221) had later moved to Columbiana County, Ohio where he was involved in well drilling, an occupation that had reached its zenith in the oil fields of Pennsylvania before the start of the twentieth century. The Persings living in the Youngstown area are descendants of Abraham (62).

Gifford Persing and Ruth Persing Huff[2-39,40]

Whenever I go to a new town, I have a practice to look in the local telephone directory for Persings. Such was the case on a 1987-88 winter break spent in Orlando, Florida. There my wife and I met Gifford (622411) and Betty Persing, residents of Orlando since about 1960. They had come there from the Oil City / Franklin area of Venango County, Pennsylvania. Gifford put me in touch with his aunt, Ruth Persing (6224D) Huff who lives in Franklin and who had raised him and his twin brother Rexford (622412) from their early months after the death of their mother. Both Gifford and Ruth have given me extensive additions to the descendants of Philip (6) through Sumner (6224). Sumner was also known as "Sam" and his name appears in that form in the U.S. Census. My wife and I count Gifford and Betty as dear friends and especially so because of their love for the Lord. Since moving to Florida, we have visited Giff and Betty and enjoyed fellowship together.

Ina May Persing Pummill[2-49]

Ina May contacted me through the Northumberland County Historical Society, which is closely allied with the Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Pioneers of which I am a member. She had also been in touch with the Venango County Historical Society[51] which has done a great job in documenting the family of Abraham Persing (62). Ina May had been researching her Persing ancestry and was unable to trace Abraham in Northumberland Co. I was able to provide her with this information and also add the two preceding generations to her knowledge. Ina May responded by furnishing information on her line through Abraham's son William M (623). Ina May also introduced me to Betty Lue Renner (622410) of Wadsworth, Ohio.

Betty Lue Persing Renner[2-41]

Betty Lue (62241D) is a half sister of Gifford Persing (624411) whom I had met in Orlando, Florida in 1988. She got in touch with me through correspondence with Ina May Pummill (623111A). She has provided extensive information on the line of Peter Peoria Persing (62241) who was her father and Gifford's. She also sent me copies of the military records[58] of Daniel (622). Her cousin Mary Sanford[2-44] of Kennerdale, Pa. had developed much of family information. This entire line, descendants of Abraham (62), has shown more interest in genealogy than any of the other lines of descent from William (*). I have also been in touch with Minnie Persing Corklin (6224C) and Martha Myers (6224E) who have contributed much to the coverage of the family in this book. Although not included in this volume, my files are full of photos, newspaper articles and various records of the family, making it the one of the most extensive of my collection. Thanks is also due to the Genealogical Club of Oil City[52], the Venango County Historical Society[51], (who possess an earlier edition of this history), and the Stillwater, Oklahoma Public Library[68].

The Orlando, Florida Library - Discoveries that Cast Doubt on the "Floyd" Account of the Persing Arrival in America

As mentioned before, in the winter of 1987-88 my wife and I achieved a long postponed objective, i.e. to travel to Florida. We stayed at a mobile home park located in Conway, an Orlando suburb near the airport, from early January to about mid-March. The location was convenient to Disney World and other Florida attractions which I had never visited. During this time I had opportunity to put much of the first edition into final form and also to do a little research at the Orlando Public Library. I firstly had visited an LDS Library[75] in Orlando to obtain copies of the documents which showed some Persings in the records of a church in Daun, Germany in the 18th century. While there I was told that the Orlando Library had a complete set of the U.S. Census microfilms for all states from 1790 to 1910. Not wishing to pass up an opportunity of this magnitude I spent several days doing research of New Jersey and Ohio records and enlarged my "trees" while also verifying some earlier data.

It was late one afternoon when I had tired considerably from looking at reel after reel of film that I took a break from the task and began to browse through the shelves of the genealogical section of the library. One volume that I took up was on the records of the Tohicken Union Church, Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pa.[38]. Looking for references to Persing and Person in the index, I found a reference to Passinger (Bassinger) under the same indexing. Curious because I had found this surname was used on occasion in New Jersey, I looked up the records. What I found was startling to say the least for it places "Floyd's" account in dispute. "Floyd" had said that William (*) came from "Germany" with his wife and two children. But on page 98 of the

Tohicken records, I found the baptismal record 10Apr1759 of Maria Catherine (A) d/o William Bassinger and wife Barbara, witnessed by Philip DRUM. The child's date of birth was given as 13Feb1759. This date caught my immediate attention as I recollected it to be the same date as on the tombstone[Nc] of Catherine Person Yeager, buried adjacent to William and Barbara Person at the Harmony Presbyterian Church in Harmony, N.J. Further search of these church records[Nd] revealed additional material. On page 87 there appears the record of the baptism 16Oct1757 of John Yeager dob 31Aug1752 whom I had long before established as the husband of Catherine Person from family records and from the Yeager connection to the Strassburger Family[3.4]. On page 213 there appears a record of the marriage, 01NOV1757, of John William Bossan to Barbara Drum. Another record shows the presence of John Bossan and Barbara Drum at the baptism, 16Oct1757, of Maria Catherine Barbara Drum, d/o John and Maria Drum. John Drum and Philip Drum, soon to be mentioned, are assumed to be brothers of Barbara. From these records, I concluded that John Bossan and John William Passinger are the same person, mainly because of the presence of Philip Drum at the baptism of Catherine (A), but also because the records[3.4] indicate an association of Drum, Passinger (Bossan/Person) and Yeager. It follows then that William (*) Persing (Bossan / Passinger / Person) did not arrive in America with his wife and two children nor settle immediately in New Jersey, but that he arrived in America single, possibly lived in Northampton County, married at Tohicken in Bucks County, and lived there at least until his first child Catherine Person was born in 1759. William (*) and Barbara's presence in Bucks Co. may have been due to the Indian attacks[40,42] being made at the base of the Blue Mountains in Northampton County in 1757. A relative of Barbara's, Adam Drum was killed by Indians near Kempton, Pa. on 22Jun1757[54]. Local history[41] shows that Pastor Hecker, who married William and Barbara, had fled from the area of Kreidersville, Pa. to Tohicken, Bucks Co. where he pastored the Tohicken Church. There is some evidence that William may also have lived in the Blue Mountain area after his arrival. Some obscure references are made to a William Person in tax records of Allen Township and in records of Craig's Settlement[41]. William's move to New Jersey has not yet been documented but migratory evidence[3.4] points to a relocation, probably first to Easton, and then to Greenwich, N.J. in Sussex County. The Strassburger history[3.4] bears record of a move to Easton by the Yeager family in 1758, giving the occasion for a later reassociation of Person and Yeager, culminating in the marriage of John Yeager and Catherine Person. Greenwich and Tohicken are in counties that border the Delaware River and are no more than 25 air miles apart, Easton being in between, only 6 miles southwest of Greenwich. For the present, it appears that William and Barbara Person/Passinger left Bucks County before the birth of their second child George in 1760 since there are no more baptismal records at Tohicken. Since Mathias was born in New Jersey[5], they were at Greenwich ca 1766 and probably by 1760 when George was born. These records may also give a clue to the use of the surname Per-son' possibly

derived from the name Bossan found at Tohicken, or due to a local confusion of the name with that of a contemporary family, Ber'son (Person) in the same area. A French Canadian has told me that the French surname Bossan means "person" in English. But it appears also, that in German Reformed records, the surname Passinger was used and went along with William to Greenwich. But even today there are families in Germany having the surname Bossan.

Having documentation[38] of William Person's presence in Bucks County, Pa. as early as 16Oct1757, I now revised an earlier estimate of his arrival in 1763, which had been based on the "Floyd" account of an arrival with wife and two children, to 1757 or earlier. Rather than limit perusal of the Philadelphia Passenger Lists[73] to after 1760 when William's second child was born, I could now back up to the 1750's. This brought me to a notation I had made of the arrival 17Sep1753 of Johanes Peroing on the Richard and Mary. This name, written by a clerk, taken from List 201C, was also recorded by Rupp in 30000 Names[74] as Johannes Perring. The Tohicken records[38] were the first to show William (*) as John William, and thinking that the differences in spelling of the passenger list surname could also allow another reading as Persing, I felt that this might be a record of William's arrival. However, it was later pointed out to me that List 201A gives this passenger's name as Johan Swarin and List 201B as Johann Swerin, suggesting that the List 201C rendering is incorrect. But it should be noted too that the Pennsylvania Archives'[54] rendering from the same list is "Johannes Behring". So the mystery of arrival remains unresolved and difficult to unravel because of the uncertainties of the records, word-of-mouth tradition and lack of family records.

Problems & Discrepancies

Before covering research in New Jersey, a word should be said about progress with unanswered questions, apparent discrepancies, faulty information and variant interpretations of information in the preceding accounts.

Origin

The problem of William Persing's European origin is taken up in detail in Chapter 3.

Surname

1. The earliest documents that I have found of William (*) Persing are those of the Tohicken Reformed Church[38] in Bucks County, Pa. in 1757. William appears as Johan Wilhelm BOSSAN and as Johan Wilhelm BASSINGER. Prior to finding these records, I had discovered several instances where William was listed as PASSINGER and as PERSON at the baptisms of some of his grandchildren at Easton[Nd4] and Greenwich[Nd3] churches. All of these surnames seem most certainly to exclude any relationship to the

PERSHING family which has also been changed from German spellings PFOERSCHING, PFIRSING etc. to American spellings PERSIN, PERSHING etc. There are so many stories about the origin of our name that have come from pure speculation that I hope these facts will put them all to rest. Some examples are: "The wife of a Pershing did not like the "h" in it so she made her husband change it", "Our name was originally Persinski". These stories get spread around and it is hard to dispute them without facts.

2. In the U.S. Census of New Jersey in 1830, Jacob (3), William (31), and John (32) are listed as PERSING in Greenwich Township. Jeremy (33) is listed as PERSON in Oxford Township. In 1840 all these are listed as PERSON. In 1850 William (31) is listed as PURSING in Harmony Township. It is reasonable to conclude the individuals are the same persons, the only differences are the townships in which they live. This was due to subdivision of Greenwich and Oxford into Harmony Township in 1839.

3. In William's (*) original will[Na] the surnames are all given as PERSING but in a letter of administration, references are made to Jacob Persing for which there are corrections to change the name to Jacob PERSON. In the same letter of administration William, the deceased, is named William PERSON and his son Mathias, who died in 1826, is named Mathias PERSON. The text of this document is included in the chapter on documentation.

4. Descendants of William (*) bear either the surname Persing or Person almost without fail. No known descendants are surnamed Bossan, Passinger or any of the other variations of spelling found in early records. At the present time my opinion about the use of Person by William in New Jersey is that it was an "anglicizing" of the surname Bossan by the English authorities. Possibly this was due to the difficulty that Palatines had with pronouncing the letter "r". As for Persing, I do not think that there is a relationship to this family in "Germany". Again the difficulty in pronouncing the letter "r" could have resulted in a corruption of the spelling of Passing(er) to Persing by the authorities. Perhaps some day I will find the facts about the change.

5. Sussex County, N.J. courthouse records[Ns3] also bear evidence that the surname Passing, Persing, Person and Persong were all used by William (*) and his family as well as by another family who resided at Knowlton in Sussex County. The implications of these records are covered more thoroughly in Chapter 2.

6. The U.S. Census of Northumberland County for 1790 through 1820 lists the Persings as PERSIN, PERSON, PERSING, PERSONG and PRUSONG. It is possible that some of the PERSONs are descendants of Abram or of the unidentified family of PERSONs from the area

of Knowlton in Warren (formerly Sussex) Co., N.J. In 1800 a Benjamin PERSON and a Mrs. PERSON are shown living in Augusta Twp. A Joseph PERSING appears in the 1796 tax lists. The appearance of unidentified PERSONs and PERSINGs in both Northumberland Co. and in Knowlton, N.J., and the use of the various forms in both places are evidences supporting my theory that all of these families are related.

Time of Arrival

A significant discrepancy in the Mary Persing Haas account[4.1], as recorded in the Dean Persing family bible, is the statement that William (*) and Abram came to America "early in the 18th century". Both "Floyd"[5] and Bell[6] give ages birthdates, and conditions which point to a mid-century arrival, certainly not "early" in the century. Until the Orlando discoveries, I gave more credibility to the published accounts of "Floyd" and Bell because they closely agreed with Pennsylvania family sources of information. But since the Tohicken Union Church records[38] point to a date prior to 1757 and the "Floyd" account may be faulty, the possibility is opened up that if the Haas account is correct about an early 18th century arrival, William (*) and Abram may have arrived as children with their parents. This is speculation on my part but because there are so many unanswered questions about the arrival, the avenues of possibility should all be considered in pursuing the answer. One learns much from *local* records, and the existence of allied surnames[Ns3] in the area, suggest that William and Abram may have had family in the Colonies when they arrived. Until the answer is found I will not discard these possibilities.

Genealogy

Another problem with Mary Persing Haas's account[4.1] is the genealogy given. She stated the order to be William (*) (or Abram), she did not know which was her husband's line), then George (1), followed by William Jr. (4), who was first in the list appearing above the note. This does not agree with either "Floyd" or the will of William (*) and other records[2-1] in the author's possession. These all indicate that the latter William Jr.(4) in the record was a son of William (*) and not the son of George. George did have a son named William W but he was born about 1786, not 1773 as is given in the Haas account, next to William Jr.(4)'s name. From names and dates given elsewhere in this volume, William (*) was born in 1733, came to America possibly in 1750, fathered George (1) in 1760 and William Jr.(4) of the bible record in 1773. It is evident from these dates that George (1) and William Jr.(4) of the bible record were brothers and not father and son as the Mary Persing Haas account would indicate. Since the record was given "as she heard it", and she was near to her death and probably ill, it is possible that she was confused in her recollection of what she had heard.

Conclusion

Floyd's "Annals"[5], Dean Persing's family bible insert[4-1], my father's verbal account, and persistent references to Alsace / Lorraine by other Persings give only a general picture of the Persing origin, their emigration to the Colonies and their residence in Sussex County, N.J. Much remains to be discovered about their lives, both here and in Alsace/Lorraine and the German Rhineland. The text of the bible insert can be found in the chapter on documentation.

From these accounts and other discoveries, we can conclude that William (*) was German speaking, emigrated to the American Colonies before 1757, settled possibly first in Northampton County, Pa., married in Bucks Co., Pa. and by 1760 moved on to the area of Harmony, N.J. Additional research has located the New Jersey residence of William as Lower Harmony, Warren County, along the Lopatcong Creek at a site near the present Harkers Hollow Country Club. Further work is required to learn the place of origin in Europe. They possibly arrived in America with friends or neighbors and sought to locate near relatives or friends who had preceded them to the new land. Possible clues to their origin may thus be found in the histories of Palatine families in the Bucks County, Pa. and Sussex/Warren County, N.J. areas where origins of the populace have been studied and published. For example, it is known that the founding families of the Tohicken Reformed Church were Huguenots. The same spirit which perhaps, in the face of religious problems or the hardships of wars, led William and Abram to seek a new home in America, prevailed in many of their descendants as well. In fact six of William and Barbara's eight children relocated to Northumberland County, Pa. after the Revolutionary War and from there many of their grandchildren joined the 19th century westward trek into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, California and other states where their descendants may be found today.

Other Sources Used in Research by Author

Social Security Death Index

The Social Security Death Index[62] has been a good source of statistical data for many of the records included in the tree. Not all records have been updated for deaths, as it is difficult at times to make a match.

"Family History" Books

So-called family history books have been consulted for address information only. Other than for a list of names and addresses these books, solicited for sale by mail, are worthless, as they do not contain any information as to how the named persons are related. One of these, Persings Since the Civil War[83], is merely a listing of Persings appearing in

various public records since that time. This information is now available from the Internet and various CD ROM disks are available for obtaining addresses and telephone numbers.

Internet Search

In May, 1997 I acquired a computer capable of surfing the Internet. I hope to use this tool in locating the birthplace of William (*) Persing. But it has also enabled me to access many genealogical sites and search them for records of Persings and Persons. The following is a record of those "finds" and acknowledges the people who placed the records there. I have also contacted many Persing descendants via e-mail and have added to the family trees.

I started first by searching for Persings who had computers and e-mail addresses. Some of those who responded have family records containing information which I used to verify data collected from other sources. Others had entirely new information.

Next I searched for and found many genealogical sites and queried these on the surname Persing. I located both new and old records by this method. I also left my e-mail address at some of these sites and have been contacted by others of the family interested in genealogy. More and more people are into family history since I began in 1980 so the contacts are easy, much easier than by U.S. Mail. People tend to reply to e-mail immediately whereas a letter often gets laid down and not picked up again. Certainly the response is much better via the Internet.

The following information was obtained from genealogical sites on the Internet:

Line 1

Rick Van Tassel[2-73] Descendants of Henrietta Persing 133D

Line 2

Descendants of Abraham Gage - Hilbert P Persing (22661) marriage to Wavil M Sayles

Line 4

Descendants of Griffith John - Lula Myrtle (4730)- marriage to Oscar Eyer.

Line 6

Carol Sue Hair[2-126] Descendants of Graydon Persing 623112

The following information was obtained from Persing descendants through e-mail contact:

Line 1

Brian A Persing[2-71] - Descendants of Lawrence D Persing 111411

Barbara Slack[2-72] - Descendants of Stephen K Persing 1212

Line 2

Trudy Campbell[2-81] - Name of wife of Andrew C Persing 2113

Donna Wiens[2-82] - Descendants of Morris Persing 224

Ellen Grable[2-83] - Descendants of Luther M Persing 22424

Ellen is the wife of Steven D Grable whose mother is Lucille Persing 22424A. She contacted me via e-mail with questions about her mother-in-law's relatives. I was able to fill in many voids in the information she had gotten from her mother-in-law. Ellen is preparing a documentation of her Persing relatives which will include pictures and other data. I put her in touch with Elizabeth Kirkpatrick who is working on the descendants of Morris Persing 224.

David Persing[2-84] - His family 226532

Line 4

Shawn M Persing[2-101] - Descendants of Alphonso Persing 4112

Christy Kuriatnyk[2-102] - Descendants of Chester Persing 422

Marilyn Souders[2-103] - Descendants of Cordelia Persing 470

Norman V Persing[2-104] - Descendants of Claud Persing 4713

Norman responded to my e-mail request and added his family. He also said he would consult his sister June McGuire who has a family bible in which she says there is evidence of a relationship to General John J (Black Jack) Pershing. I have not received any information since the contact.

Line 5

Norman L Persing[2-111] - His family 531221

William Schooley[2-112] - Descendants of Martha Persing 54110

Line 6`

Dan Gray[2-121] - Descendants of Sarah Anne Persing Gray 61A

Kathryn Gray[2-122] - Descendants of Sarah Anne Persing Gray 61A

Mark Hause[2-124] - Descendants of Bertha Persing Hause 621A

Kellie K Persing [2-125] - Descendants of Herbert Persing 622421

M T Major[2-123] - Descendants of John Persing 621

Carol Sue Hair[2-126] - Descendants of William M Persing 623

CHAPTER 2

New Jersey Research

Initial Research and Development of Line 3 - **JACOB PERSON**

Published Records and Verification of Information Found in Them

Floyd's "Annals"[5] refers to New Jersey as the residence of William Persing (*). This was the first knowledge I had of an early Persing presence there. I had always thought that the "two" brothers my father had mentioned had initially settled in Northumberland County, Pa. This information ultimately turned me to looking at some books on New Jersey history, which were available at Harrisburg. It was not long until I turned up the volumes New Jersey Index of Wills[Na] and found the will of a William Persing was recorded at the Warren County courthouse in Belvidere. This information led me to look at the U.S. Census[57] for New Jersey but since the 1790-1820 returns for New Jersey have been lost or destroyed; I would not find a listing of William in the census at all since he died in 1829.

In the U.S. Census of 1830 for New Jersey, I found record of a Jacob PERSING and his sons. In the 1840 Census the same given names, Jacob, Jeremiah, John and William appear under the same locality but with the surname PERSON.

Several other books at Harrisburg on New Jersey and the Easton/Phillipsburg area contained references to PERSONs in the township of Greenwich, (Sussex/Warren). These volumes are: Officers and Men of New Jersey Wars[Ng], Some of the First Settlers of the Forks of the Delaware[Nl], New Jersey in 1793[Nh] and History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J.[Nb]. These references made me wonder if there were any descendants of Jacob PERSON and his sons living in the area today and if they were indeed related, as I suspected, to William Persing whose sons in Pennsylvania had been listed as PERSONs in the U.S. Census for 1800.

Further research in the New Jersey Archives[Nc] turned up additional references to William PERSING (*), Mathias (PASSINGER) (2), Jacob PERSON (3) and his sons. I cannot recollect precisely how or when all the information, which I had gathered on PERSING/PERSON in New Jersey, came together but it soon amounted to enough to make a trip to Belvidere and the Warren County area necessary to confirm my suspicions.

The first reference to William Sr. that I came upon in Some of the First Settlers of the Forks of the Delaware was in a listing[Nd3] of deacons of Christ Reformed Church of Greenwich. His name was given as William PASSINGER, the same surname I later found in the Tohicken church records[38]. I also found a reference[Nd4] to the baptism of John (24), son of Mathias

PASSINGER at Easton. The godparents were listed as John and Catherine Yeager. The presence of this couple at the baptism later confirmed my suspicion that the PASSINGERs of these references were the same as the PERSINGs of William's New Jersey will and the other New Jersey public records.

My first trip to Warren County, N.J. was to locate the graves of William and Barbara. Not knowing where they were buried I first went to the cemetery of St. James Lutheran Church on Route 22 just east of Phillipsburg. St. James Lutheran is known as the "Straw Church" and it had been the joint meeting place of Christ German Reformed and St. James Lutheran Churches in Colonial times. A thorough search of the cemetery and an inquiry to the present pastor were not successful in locating William and Barbara's graves, but I made note of some markers bearing the name PERSON. One of these, placed fairly recently, bore the names Richard, Mary and Jacob. I kept the notes on file pending further research.

Having a reference[Na] that William's will was recorded at Belvidere, I next went there and obtained a copy, also one[Na] of a Jacob Person, of Harmony, Warren County. William's will and the accompanying codicils and letter of administration leave no doubt that Jacob Person of Harmony Twp., Warren County, N.J. was Jacob Persing, son of William and Barbara. A text of the codicil appears in the chapter on documentation.

The next research involving New Jersey was done at the Easton Library because it has a large genealogical section. It was there that I found a William and Barbara PERSON were buried at the Harmony Presbyterian Church cemetery[Nc7]. I also made record of many other PERSONs buried in Warren County cemeteries. These records are a part of the Rosebury Inscriptions[Nc]. Mrs. Rosebury had made a record of all the gravestone inscriptions in Warren County back in 1935. This was very fortunate indeed for in 50 years many of the stones had become unreadable. These records of course were listed by cemetery so I now had a handle on where Persons were buried. Sometime in August 1984, my wife and I went first to the German Reformed Church (now United Church of Christ) in Easton, but finding that the office was closing, we went on to Harmony. I had also found a record of a PERSON buried at the Lower Harmony Methodist churchyard[Nd5] so we stopped in that area to make inquiry. The first person that we saw on arriving at Lower Harmony turned out to be the president of the cemetery association. We asked about PERSONs buried in the Methodist cemetery and she knew of none (but I do have a listing from the Rosebury Inscriptions). Next we asked for the location of the Harmony Presbyterian Church and then if she personally knew any PERSONs. She gave us directions to the cemetery and knew of a farm that had been operated by some PERSONs. We went first to the Presbyterian cemetery and found the graves we were looking for and the graves of Catherine Person Yeager (A) and a James PERSON plus many graves bearing surnames with which we had now become familiar in Northumberland

Co., Pa. After taking a few pictures, we headed to the vicinity of the farm along Route 57 east of Phillipsburg. On arriving at a crossroads country store in the area, we made inquiry of a clerk in the store but he could not tell us the farm location. While talking with him an older man came in and we inquired of him. "Sure I know where the farm is. That's it right across the street." (This particular farm was not the homestead of William (*) Persing/Person but was a farm leased by J. Russel Person (3553). Our informant was Jack Pursel, whose family had resided in the area since before the Revolution. On further inquiry, Jack referred me to Preston PERSON in Washington, N.J. as perhaps being able to provide some present day link to Jacob (3). So we went to Washington where Preston (35532) was Sales Manager at the local Ford agency. To make a long story short, Preston turned out to be a 4th cousin of mine. While Preston did not have much interest in family history, he did know that his grandfather Richard was buried at the Straw Church[Nd2]. This was the key to the finding of the PERSONs in New Jersey. I had obtained Richard's name from Jacob's will that was on file in Trenton. Preston also said that he had a cousin Howard (35521) who had become very much involved in developing a family tree[Nr] of the PERSONs. I soon contacted Howard, who lives in Roanoke, Va. and after exchanging information, Howard became convinced that the William and Barbara Person buried at Harmony were Jacob's parents. Howard had information from a family bible[Ne] which included Jacob, giving his date of death. But he had run into a stone wall with Jacob as far as tracing his ancestry was concerned because he did not know of a surname change and that the clue to finding Jacob's parents was hidden in William PERSING's will. That will, the attachments, and U.S. Census data are difficult to contest concerning the identity of Jacob PERSON in the light of all that I learned about the PERSINGs and PERSONs of Greenwich. Many PERSONs are noted in Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J.[Nb], in the volumes already mentioned, New Jersey in 1793[Nh], Officers and Men of New Jersey Wars[Ng] and in the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey[Nm] which also contains the German Reformed Church records.

In September of 1993, my wife and I went to Newton, N.J., county seat of Sussex Co. in hopes of turning up something more of William Persing's origins. Efforts to do so through other channels had proven time consuming and unsuccessful for several years. We found numerous property transactions[Ns] by William and Barbara and by their son Jacob. The earliest of these were dated 1800 but they contained references to other transactions going back to 1778. What was most interesting about these records was the use of most of the variations of surname as had been found in Bucks and Northumberland Counties in Pennsylvania. One reference was to John Passing and the others were to Person, Persong and Persing. There was also record of the family of Matthias PERSONG of Knowlton, Sussex Co., N.J. which I had earlier discounted as being related when I had found them as PERSONs in the 1830 New Jersey Census. But in the Sussex deedbooks there also appeared similar variations of the surname,

i.e. Persun, Persen, Person and Persing. They all may have been related to a John Person who had died intestate in 1796. And so another mystery has evolved. Just who are these families and are they related to William Persing? Are they the family of (John?) Abram, brother of William? Was I wrong about the Abraham Bassinger in Northampton Co., Pa. being William's brother? In early research of ship passenger lists I had found reference[73] to a Mathias Bassing who arrived in the Colonies in 1743 on the Snow Charlotta. Also I had found reference to a Francis Persong in Hunterdon County, N.J. (Inventory[Na] of the property of Curt Hummer of Amwell) and to an Andrew Persong, also in Hunterdon Co. The dates of these events exclude the possibility of a descendancy from William Persing but seem to point to the possibility that William and Abram had relatives living in America when they arrived. However, the families' given names do not follow the same pattern as in William's family. At present I am dedicated to finding the European birthplace of William so this mystery will be of secondary importance.

The courthouse at Newton has very few records[Ns] predating 1800; the earlier records being located in the State Library at Trenton. As an example, a property deed[Nv] involving William Person, Valentine Mets and Lawrence Minager in 1772 is not to be found at Newton. However other deeds involving these same persons after 1800 are on file there. Discouraged that we would find nothing predating 1800 we left the courthouse and went to the Sussex County Library in hopes of finding further records of William. But our search there yielded little except to identify additional source material which we noted and then departed for home.

A review of what I had found and comparison with earlier notes makes it desirable to visit Newton again to clarify some of the deeds and to specifically locate the residence of William Persing in Lower Harmony by deed(s). There is little likelihood of my personally doing this as I now live in Florida and the need is not compelling. Perhaps some descendant of Jacob Person who lives in the area could undertake to do so.

The deed books of Sussex County contain several transactions involving Jacob Person/Persing. These deeds provide additional information on the locations of the Persing family farms. Two of them involve the transfer of properties from Laurence Minnegar (Minier) to Jacob Persing and William Persing. Laurence Minnegar was one of three men including William Person involved in the 1772 purchase of land from Samuel and Thomas Pryor. In one of them a description of the property states that the land was "on the east side of the Great Road from Easton to Newton". This is in agreement with a ca1850 map of Greenwich which shows J. & P. Person living in the proximity of what is now Harkers Hollow Country Club. The inventory of the estate of another of these three men, Valentine Metts (Metz?), was undertaken by Jacob Person and John Smith. A Daniel Smith is cited in another Persing/Person transaction as an adjacent landowner. Anyone

wishing to enlarge on the history of Jacob and his descendants should thoroughly read the deeds at Newton and also the pre-1800 transactions now at Trenton. These deeds are listed in Chapter 16.

Problems and Unresolved Questions

Relationship to Other PERSONs of the Area

Godfrey Person

An interesting question arose from an article in Snell's "History"[Nb] concerning one "Godfrey" Person reported to be the earliest settler of the region. Some of the information given parallels the activities of William Person/Persing and his son Jacob Person (e.g. pre-Revolutionary residents, farmer, landowner, builders of grist mills). Snell's informants said that "Godfrey" left only one son, a Jacob Person who was known as "Captain" Jacob. Snell had been unable to locate anyone who knew anything more about "Godfrey" Person. Since William Person/Persing lived in the area of Lower Harmony "before the Revolution"[5], it gives rise to the possibility that "Godfrey" might have been William (*) Persing / Person. Another possibility is that Godfrey might have been a relative of William who had arrived earlier.

Other New Jersey PERSONs

According to the account of Mary Persing Haas[4.1] (see Chapter 1 Development of Line 4) William and his brother Abram settled in the area of Belvidere, N.J. I have found no record of Abram or his family in New Jersey but have located many records of an Abraham Passinger in Springfield Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. (Trinity Union Church[39]) and in Northampton Co., Pa., (Williams Twp. Congregation - Reformed Church[44]) and in other Pennsylvania towns. I am uncertain that these are records of William's brother, Abram although the surname (B)Passinger appears in Pennsylvania only in association with Abraham or his family in the time of the Revolutionary War. Several other Person families are mentioned in various sources in West and South Jersey areas. Some of these lived in Morris County, others in Cumberland County, and lastly others near Amwell in Hunterdon County and Knowlton in Sussex County. Those in Hunterdon and in Knowlton are of much interest. I suspect that these families who also are shown in records[Ns3] as Person, Persing and Persong are in some way related to William and Abram. The PERSSONs of the Warren County area are of Swedish origin but some have changed the spelling to PERSON. The very existence of these families makes it difficult to sort out those PERSONs who are indeed descendants of William PERSING/PERSON and his son Jacob PERSON.

Variant Surnames PASSINGER, PERSING, PERSON etc.

One of the earliest records that I have of William's (*) presence in Greenwich, Sussex County (now Warren Co.) is the record[Nd2] of the "Straw Church" (St. James Lutheran and Christ Reformed Churches) previously mentioned. In 1788, a William PASSINGER was appointed to the consistory of Christ Church Greenwich, linked with the German Reformed Church in Easton, Pa. Another record[Nd2] shows a William PASSINGER's appointment in 1793 as a deacon and also a reference to the expiration of his term in 1794. These appointments also appear in the records of the Easton German Reformed Church[Nd4] (now the United Church of Christ). In all these records William's (*) surname is given as PASSINGER. The appearance of the surname PASSINGER in the German Reformed records in both Easton and Greenwich is one reason for concluding that the Bucks Co., Pa. records are also records of William Persing. There are two additional records of the Easton church[Nd4] which are of interest. One is the baptismal record of a John PASSINGER, son of Mathias and Catherine PASSINGER, who was born 06Dec1794 and baptized 02Feb1795. Appearing as godparents are John and Catherine Yeager. Catherine Person Yeager (A) was a sister of Mathias (2) and is buried just one grave removed from her parents William (*) and Barbara PERSON at the Presbyterian Church in Harmony, N.J.[Nc7] The second record[Nd4] is that of the baptism of Maria Cathrina Person (40), (the Mary Persing Haas[4.1] previously mentioned), daughter of Wilhelm PERSON (4) and Hannah. Sponsors are Wilhelm (*) PERSON and Barbara. I believe these facts are sufficient to conclude that the records of the Easton German Reformed and Christ Church Greenwich congregations using the surnames PASSINGER and PERSON are records of William and Barbara PERSING/PERSON, their sons Mathias (2) and William (4), their grandson John (24) along with daughter Catherine (A) and grand-daughter Maria Catherine (40).

Location of Original Homestead

William Persing's* will[Na1] is dated 26Sep1823. The will leaves his farm to Jacob and describes its location as being in Greenwich, Sussex County. After the 1824 subdivision, this became Greenwich, Warren County and later on, Harmony Township. A deed is on record in the Trenton, N.J. State Library in which land at Greenwich is transferred from Thomas Pryor Jr. to William PERSON, Valentine Mets and Lawrence Minager on 04May1772. A review of this document produced no immediately helpful information to prove the identity of the said William Person or to locate the homestead of William Persing (*). Another deed found later at Sussex County Courthouse, confirms its location as on "the east side of the great road between Easton and Newton".

A map[Nz] of the Harmony area dated around 1850 shows PERSON properties in the area of what is now the Harker's Hollow Country Club in Harmony Township. A large mural type copy of this map is located in the Easton, Pa. Public Library. The map

shows properties of a J. Person and a P. Persun. These are probably Jacob and Philip. Philip is known to have ceased farming at about age 50 due to a physical disability but continued to travel to New Jersey to market peaches. An article appearing in a Shamokin paper about July 1876, three years before his death, tells us that Philip owned a peach orchard in Northumberland Co., Pa. and hauled his product to New Jersey markets. It is likely that he retained a home in New Jersey in that period because he had given up inheritance of William Sr.'s farm in the Shamokin area to his son William (61).

About 1990, in doing research at the Easton Library, I came across a volume entitled Our Greenwich[Ny] which contains a picture taken in 1965 of the Harker's Hollow Country Club and an old grist mill. I believe the mill is the one built by William Person but attributed to "Godfrey" Person.

Expansion of Jacob's Line from U.S. Census, Family and Cemetery Records

Other than Howard Person's (35521) family bible[Nel], his personal records and family histories[Nn1-4], this tree has been expanded from census[57], cemetery[Nc] and newspaper[Nw] records. Care has been taken to exclude all doubtful information.

Conclusion

The Jacob PERSON of Greenwich and Harmony, N.J., who is listed in the U.S. Census of 1830 as Jacob Persing, in 1840 and 1850 as Jacob Person and in the family bible of Howard Person as Jacob Person, is the son of William and Barbara Persing. They are buried at the Harmony Presbyterian Church cemetery as William and Barbara PERSON. Unfortunately the grave of Jacob Person has not been located. Possibly, he might be buried near where he last lived. I have been told too that the Harmony Presbyterian Church has been enlarged over an area containing some graves. It seems unlikely though that Jacob would be buried in the church cemetery since he was excommunicated in 1835.

Contacts with Relatives

Howard Person[Nr]

As related above I contacted Howard (35521) as a result of my visit with Preston (35532) in Washington, N.J. Howard had done a lot of work on the Person family especially in connection with his interest in a memorial plaque for Lewis Z. (351) which he had seen as a boy. At the time Howard began his research he was uncertain as to his relationship to Lewis. Lewis had fought in the Civil War and died of typhoid fever at White Oak Church, Va. in the late winter of 1862-3. Howard sought diligently to find his grave and after great and fruitless effort finally concluded that Lewis is buried in either a mass grave at the White Oak Primitive Baptist Church located five miles east of

Fredericksburg at the junction of Virginia Routes R-218 and R-603, or in a mass grave at the National *Cemetery at Fredericksburg. Long unable to locate White Oak Church he was helped significantly when he picked up a volume on the Civil War in a used bookshop in Salem, Virginia. The book was written by General Stackpole of Harrisburg, Pa. and contained a map locating White Oak Church as described above. Howard's progress in tracing his family had ended at the family bible entry[Ne1] of Jacob Person's death in September 1854. When I contacted Howard, I had long concluded that Jacob Person of Greenwich, N.J. was Jacob Persing (3). The evidence is given above and Howard has accepted it as fact. Howard and Preston have been my only contacts in New Jersey for this line. From their family tree it can be seen that there were differences in the spelling of the surname PERSON as there were differences among Pennsylvania PERSINGs in the spelling of theirs. Howard has given information to add to the tree of Jacob(3) extensively. He also published a record of his work entitled <u>The Search for Some Person Family Background</u>[Nt].

CHAPTER 3

European Research

Origin

Finding the birthplace of Johan Wilhelm (B)Passinger/ Bossan /Persing /Person has been the most difficult challenge I face in researching the history of the Persing family. At this writing, I have yet to succeed. For this reason the text of the chapter deals only with my findings and does not identify the birthplace. The following represents what I learned and how it might be interpreted.

Early Attempts to Locate William Persing's Birthplace

Bas Rhin and Haut Rhin in France

Since Alsace/Lorraine was the only information I had to begin with, I started research by considering the present French Departments of Bas Rhin, Haut Rhin, Moselle and Meurthe et Moselle (formerly Alsace and Lorraine) as likely places to find record of the Persing family. In the Alsace, German was the popular language. In Lorraine, German was spoken in the East and French in the West.[72] This dialect of German is quite distinctive being influenced by the French Huguenots and Swiss who populated the area after devastating wars left the area blighted. But the family tradition of "Alsace/Lorraine" was not specific enough to concentrate the research in only one of these territories. I did not know at the time whether the Persings were French or German speaking.

Germany

The first indication I had that William might have been German speaking came from Floyd's[5] statement that he was born in Germany. But it would not be clear here either, whether "Germany" was meant to include Alsace/Lorraine or not. Floyd's "Annals" were published in 1911 when the Alsace and the German speaking part of Lorraine were in the German Reich. Since "Floyd's" source was probably a Persing family, the reference to Germany at that time could have meant Alsace-Lorraine (Elsass-Lothringen as it was known in German) or possibly the Rhineland or Saarland. I favored the reference in "Floyd" to mean the Germany before 1871, only a small part of which included some of Alsace/Lorraine. Later, after finding a reference to Germany in the Dean Persing family bible[4.1] ca 1860, this proved to be a good choice.

A Bible Reference to Germany ca 1860

Since I did not know where to begin, I held off on European research and pursued developing the American genealogies by contacts with relatives. In so doing, a major piece of

information was soon found which gave support to my assumption that William was living in the Palatinate (part of the present Rhineland-Pfalz and Saarland areas of Germany) when he emigrated. I had contacted Dean Persing who at the time lived in Storm Lake, Iowa. He had a family bible[4.1], which said that William, and his brother Abram had come to America from "Swatrakee", Germany early in the 18th century. I searched maps and indices in Charles Hall's Atlantic Bridge to Germany but could not find a place with that name. I then placed a query in the Palatine Immigrant asking for help in identifying "Swatrakee". I received a response from Mr. Ernest Thode of Ohio, an expert on German place names. Mr. Thode suggested that it might be a corrupted spelling of Swatara Creek, Pa. and that William might have lived there before moving to New Jersey. Another consultant initially agreed with my suggestion that it might be a corruption of "Zweibrücken" caused by a faulty transcription and translation of an illegible earlier record. He later retracted this opinion. After searching the records of churches in the Swatara Creek, Lebanon County, Pa. area fruitlessly and considering the circumstances in which the bible account was given, I leaned toward the Zweibrücken translation though the experts did not support it. The mention of "Germany" in the 1860 bible entry pointed to the Rhineland or Palatinate instead of those French provinces which had been a part of Alsace/Lorraine. This indicated to me that the family tradition of Alsace/Lorraine may have referred to the original home of the Persing family who had fled France under the Huguenot persecutions and not to the place of emigration. Having a clear reference to Germany, I continued with my research in those parts of Alsace/Lorraine which had extended into the Rhineland, the German Pfalz or Palatinate on the west side of the Rhine.

The LDS IGI File

Germany

Alsace/Lorraine over the centuries had included areas now in the German Rhineland and Saarland. The most available source of information on the inhabitants of these areas ca 1750 was the LDS (Mormon) IGI (International Genealogical Index) file.[75] This is a listing of known records of deceased persons throughout the world. Some entries are taken from church and civil records and others are from submissions by LDS church members for certain church ordinances. Since I could not accurately define what was meant by "Alsace/Lorraine" or "Germany", I first looked in the German areas for the surnames Persing and Person as I had found in U.S. Census records. I found a number of Persings living at Daun in the Rhineland ca 1732-1766 but this location was really beyond the ancient boundaries of Alsace/Lorraine. In addition none bore the given names William or Abram and they were all members of the Roman Catholic Church. My Persings were of the Huguenot faith. However, my father had told my brother that a brother of William and Abram had stayed in Europe and joined the Catholic church to keep the family farm. A query to the local

government was not helpful because there were no civil records kept prior to Napolean's conquest in 1794. I gave up on this approach.

France

It would be quite some time until I would look at the LDS IGI[75] covering records of "Alsace/Lorraine" now in the French Departments Bas Rhin, Haut Rhin, Moselle and Meurthe et Moselle. When I finally did, they offered nothing in the way of identifying our family under any of the surnames found in American records. While the surname Person was found in them, it was of families having French given names. Because these records yielded very little help, I tended to reject the French "Alsace/Lorraine" as the origin of William until I had more information to work with.

Professional Research

Later, because of the Huguenot tradition, I felt that it would be helpful to consult a French genealogist who might be able to relate the various forms of our surname to some specific area of "Alsace/Lorraine". On contacting one, I was told that the surname Persing did exist in the French Department, Bas Rhin. (I later learned that this was not entirely true, the spelling being Pers-o-ng.) This encouraged me to send a retainer, requesting a search for the family in church records of the area. My retainer was soon spent and the meager information I received for it was enough to signal an abrupt halt to that approach. One thing positive about the experience was that it turned me away from present day Bas Rhin as having been William's place of birth.

Queries to Genealogists and Societies

I also wrote to the following German agencies and individuals:

Westdeutsche Gesellschaft Für Familienkunde -*5720 Gummersbach
Institut für Pfalzische Geschicte und Volkskunde -
*6750 Kaiserslautern
Landesarchiv - Saarland -*D6600 Saarbrücken
Verbandsgemeindeverwaltung -*5568 Daun
Bundesarchiv -*5400 Koblenz
Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser -*7261 Ostelsheim
Bernd Gölzer -*6601 Scheidt
Johannes Seeländer -*D7737 Bad Dürrheim
Ulrich Grun-Ditz -*4784 Rüthen/Möhne

*These zipcodes were changed in 1993

Although some replies gave helpful information, none were sufficient to lead me to a specific county or town. Some of the leads provided are still being investigated.

A Basis for further Research

Family Traditions and Records

Research to date has yielded only four items on which to focus in locating the birthplace. They are:

1. A consistent family tradition that the Persings had lived in Alsace/Lorraine and that they were of Huguenot ancestry.

2. My father's statement that at the time of the emigration the family had to join the Catholic church or give up their farm and relocate. The family had decided that a third brother (unnamed) would join the Catholic Church to keep the farm and that William and Abram would emigrate to America.

3. Statements in "Floyd"[5] and in a family genealogy[2.1] that William Persing was born in Germany.

4. A family bible reference[4.1] to "Swatrakee", Germany as the home of William and Abram his brother, prior to their emigration. None of these sources give an identifiable place or specific time of emigration. Each source has required continual analysis to determine what might have been meant at the time it was recorded or had became a part of the family tradition.

Traditions and Records Analyzed

Many questions have come to mind as to the definitions of "Alsace/Lorraine" and "Germany". If I should be unable to find the answers that would lead to a successful quest, I believe it would be helpful to include these questions in this text. Perhaps someone will take up the search later.

Alsace/Lorraine

1. When did the area "Alsace/Lorraine" first appear in family tradition?

2. How was Alsace/Lorraine defined geographically at that time?

3. Did the tradition's reference to "Alsace/Lorraine" mean before incorporation into the German Reich in 1871 or after?

4. What influence has the origin of the family of General John J. Pershing had on the Persing family tradition?

Note: The Pershings came from the Alsace, probably Kehe.

My Father's Statement

1. Where did it become compulsory to join the Catholic Church ca 1750 at which time I think William and Abram emigrated?

2. What was the name of the brother who remained in Europe? Were the parents still living?

Germany

1. Did the "Germany" in "Floyd's"[5] account refer to Germany before 1871 or to the First German Reich in existence in 1911 when "Floyd" was published?

Note: Alsace-Lorraine was a part of the German Reich in 1911.

2. How does the discovery of William's marriage at Tohicken, Bucks Co., Pa., affect the overall validity of Floyd's account which said that he was married in Germany?

3. Could the statement "William Persing married in Germany and had two children when he emigrated" have applied to William's parents rather than himself?

Family Bible Reference to Germany

1. How was "Germany" geographically and politically defined in 1860 when the statement was entered in the bible?

2. Where is the "Swatrakee" of the bible account? Is it a corrupted transcription of a poorly written "Zweibrücken" or "Saarbrücken" from an earlier record?

3. Was the source correct about "early in the 18th century" as the time of emigration?

4. How does William's appearance at Tohicken in 1757, when he was 24, affect the above statement?

5. How reliable was the source since it was given "as best she recollected" and at a time when she was ill?

Family Account of Line 5

1. What "Germany" was meant in the family genealogy? Before 1871 or after?

Note: The family account referring to Germany is probably the source of "Floyd's" information.

The Political and Religious Settings

Before proceeding with research I had to study and understand the political-religious circumstances in Alsace/Lorraine and the German Palatinate at the time of emigration (ca1750). I had to keep in mind their history and the impact on the region of the Huguenot persecutions in France. I have tried to be brief with the following conclusions (volumes have been written on this subject by others) but it is nevertheless a complex subject. A possible scenario follows each topic.

Alsace and Lorraine

I will refer to these areas independently or as Alsace/Lorraine rather than Alsace-Lorraine (Elsass-Lothringen) as they were known when in the German Reich (1871-1918, 1940-1945). The Alsace, for some time prior to 1648, consisted of independent cities and other areas controlled by noble families of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nation or by the Austrian crown.[75] After the Thirty Years War and the Peace of Westphalia (1648), much of the area passed to France. Soon, religious refugees from Switzerland (the Mennonites) settled in the Alsace. Along with Protestant Calvinists (Huguenots) from France and possibly local dissenters, they became a threat to the Catholic Church. In 1661 French Protestants came under strong persecution by France's Louis XIV. In 1685, Louis XIV expelled all Huguenots from France. Mennonites and possibly other Protestants in the Alsace relocated from Strasbourg and vicinity (which came under French control in 1681) to the northern parts of the region (Lower Alsace) which were under administration of the Counts Palatine of the HRE.[75] Some went to areas in the Rhineland-Pfalz (Palatinate) where Huguenot churches had been established in Frankenthal as early as 1665. In 1712 Louis XIV evicted the Mennonites from the southern region (Upper Alsace). They moved into the Lower Alsace, the Saarland and Lorraine. By 1733 the Upper Alsace was under French autonomy. The Huguenots had fled but other Protestant groups were left relatively undisturbed. By 1750 all but small areas in the region of Wissembourg were influenced by the Austrian ruler Maria Theresa through an alliance with France against Frederick the Great. (By the "Pragmatic Sanction" she had claimed the crown of the German Holy Roman Empire after her father Charles VI died in 1740.) The remaining portions of the Lower Alsace near the Palatine border and areas of the Palatinate were governed by the Counts Palatine who as German Electors were loyal to the German crown. However their independence declined after the death of Charles and they came increasingly under the influence of Maria Theresa. By 1750 she was calling the shots through the Dukes of Zweibrücken in the Lower Alsace and in the Palatinate.

Scenario

It could be that the Persing family was amongst the refugees who lived near the Alsatian/Palatine border ca 1750 when William left for America. But, the Persings were "Huguenots from Alsace/Lorraine". This may suggest that they had at one time lived in France but fled either to the Alsace or Lorraine during the persecutions which preceded the expulsion of all Huguenots from France in 1685. If they had gone to the Alsace, it seems unlikely that they remained in any part of it after 1685. (The Bassinger family is found at Weitersweiler in the Palatinate in 1673.)

Lorraine

Lorraine had long been an independent territory under administration of the Dukes of Lorraine who were generally under French influence except for times of war when the Germans and others had conquered it. The Huguenot persecutions in France had their effect on the Protestants of Lorraine so that thousands of them fled eastward into more favorable lands in the northern Alsace, the Saarland and the Palatinate. Political pressures eventually forced the Duke of Lorraine to yield Lorraine to the former Polish king Stanislaus Leszczynski who turned it over to France at his death in 1766.

Scenario

The Persing family lived in Lorraine at the time of the Huguenot expulsion from France in 1685 and fled to the Rhineland-Palatinate. It seems unlikely that they would have left Lorraine later since William spoke German, not French, as might have been the case had he left for America from Lorraine.

Germany

The area of Germany that is of concern is the region west of the Rhine, specifically parts of the present day states of Rheinland-Pfalz and Saarland. In William's day much of the Palatinate was under the administration of the Duke of Zweibrücken.[75] The entire area was known as Zweibrücken rather than just the city itself. In 1705, because of religious strife, the government mandated a reapportionment of churches (source unknown) in an attempt to resolve the problem by assigning the churches of a community to either the Catholic or Protestant faiths. 5/7th of the churches became Catholic and 2/7th Protestant. Thus residents of a locality had no choice but to join the church assigned to their town. The extent to which this reapportionment was applied depended largely on the religion of the local ruler.

Scenario

By 1750 this policy may have been the impetus for William and his brother to leave for America.

The Huguenots

The persecution of Huguenots (French Calvinists) in France began in 1562 and culminated in their expulsion from France in 1685. They fled to Prussia, Switzerland, the Netherlands and elsewhere. Many Huguenot communities and churches were well established in the Palatinate (Pfalz) by the end of the 17th century. They thus lived in the Palatinate several generations and became "germanized"; i.e. they spoke the dialect of the Palatines. Many of them adopted German spellings or translations of their names; e.g. Le Blanc became WeiB, (Weiss), in English (White).

Scenario

The Persings were Huguenots who had fled France in 1685 or even earlier and lived in German speaking areas of Alsace, Lorraine or the Palatinate at the time of the emigration. In France, their surname may have been Bossan as was used by William at Tohicken and by certain of the descendants of Abraham Bassinger of Weitersweiler in the Palatinate.

Current Activity to Locate the Birthplace

Research Resumed

The meager information gathered from correspondence with German genealogists and archives led me to seek other means of tracing the Persings in Europe.

Alternate Surnames

Bassinger/Passinger

Many of the early queries to Germany placed emphasis on the surname Persing with minor mention of alternates used in American records. Having struck out on most of the inquiries above, I began attempts to trace the family of William's brother Abram. Instead of pursuing the surnames Persing or Person, I felt that I might follow the surname Bassinger because William had used that name at Tohicken. I also had some obscure records suggesting that William had lived in Northampton County after he arrived.[41] I looked for record of Abram in the same area and found an Abraham Bassinger at Lower Saucon ca1771. I followed this family up to 1839 in Northampton and Monroe Counties. From that point the trail broadened into neighboring states where church records were not readily available to me. Much remains to be done in following this family.

The next step I took was to make an inquiry about the family Bassinger /Passinger in Schuyler Brossman's column Our Keystone Families.[33] The only response I received was from Mr. Brossman himself who suggested that I prepare an article on our family for publication in his column. This I did and after it was published I was contacted by Leo Wastler, a fellow member of Palatines to America who lives in Mechanicsburg, Pa. Mr. Wastler saw Mr. Brossman's column and had written to Dr. Alfred Hans Kuby, a retired minister of the Evangelical Church in Germany who has been deeply involved in genealogy over the years. Dr. Kuby replied giving his thoughts on the families Bossan, Bassing(er), Bossung, Bossing and Pierson, the last a Huguenot family of Ludweiler, near Saarbrücken ca 1681. He concluded that the family Bassing of Weitersweiler in the Rhineland was the only one amongst these surnames where the given name Abraham was prominent. He also felt that there might be a chance that William lived near Barbara Drum's family in the Kusel/Pfalz area.

Many mentions of a Bassing family are available in the Marnheim, Germany Evangelical Church records (Weitersweiler etc.) on LDS microfilm.[75] A daylong search of these records produced enough data to develop a tree of the descendants of Abraham Bassing (born ca1625), mayor of Weitersweiler in 1673. But neither Wilhelm nor his brother Abraham appeared in these records. One significant item was noted. One of the families was listed as Bassing and as BOSSAN, the name first recorded for William at Tohicken. I am presently searching records of other areas of the Rhineland where Bassings appear for a record of William.

Related Families- Drum/Dromm

Another approach has been to investigate the Drum family. I had made some earlier contacts with Drum descendants and for a long time thought that Barbara might be a daughter of Simon who came to America in 1739.[73] He had a son Philip born in 1721[3-7c] and I thought that he might have been the Philip at William and Barbara's marriage. But the presence of William and Barbara at the baptism of John and Maria Drum's daughter Maria Catherine Barbara[38] complicates this theory because it is likely that Barbara Drum was the child's aunt and the sister of John Drum. Simon Drum (1739) had no living son John at that time. The Philip at William and Barbara's wedding could then have been the brother of John and Barbara. Other factors have led me away from my initial assumption of Barbara's parentage. The church records of Simon Drum (1739)[3-7c] do not include Barbara as a child of his. At the present it is not known who her parents were nor where she was born. I have also searched ship passenger lists on which are listed Drum immigrants, for William and Abram, but to no avail. In researching Palatines to America[84] records at Columbus, Ohio, I was told that Annette Burgert of Myerstown, Pa. was also a Drum descendant. Furthermore Roland Paul of the Institut für Pfalzich Geschicte und Volkskunde at Kaiserslautern

also is descended from this family. I have contacted both in hopes of getting further help but to date have learned nothing more. There are many avenues to follow and it seems to me that instead of running off in all directions I should try to make a studied approach in order to narrow the field. This "educated" approach seems to suggest that I follow the Bassing surname and attempt to link it to a Huguenot origin. Early attempts at this through Huguenot Societies have been unfruitful. The Huguenot Historical Society in New Paltz, N.Y. has not been able to identify a reference to Bossan, Bassinger, Passinger, Person, Persing in any sources available to them. A letter to Deutchen Huguenott Vereins in Gottingen, Germany after some delay yielded no record of the any of these families. But, I have found records from der Blätter für Fränkische Familienkunde which I obtained from LDS microfilm, which have confirmed the surname Bassin(g)(er) as of Huguenot origin. Some of these records go back to the 16th century.

Additional Attempts

Familienkundeliche-Nachrichten

Late in 1993 I contracted to place an ad in the German genealogical publication Familienkundeliche-Nachrichten.[85] This was published in February 1994. To date I have received two responses to it, both regarding the Drum family. While they provided some additional data on this family, none identified Barbara. No information on William Bassinger was given.

Personal Contacts in Germany

Just before the publication of the above ad I asked an American friend in Germany if he might be of any help in identifying descendants of Abraham Bassinger of Weitersweiler. Although he could find no one of that surname in his area, he offered to help in identifying the family in the Rhineland. He has given me some thoughts on the place name "Swatrakee" which need to be investigated. My thoughts about a corrupted understanding of this name being derived from Zweibrücken has caught his attention and he has made suggestions on how it might have been derived and how to proceed with this line of thought. In 1998 he added to his original "interpretations" with a suggestion it might have come from the name of a locality near Zweibrücken, Schwarzenacker with an explanation as to how it might have sounded like "Swatrakee" to an English immigration official, coming from a Palatine immigrant. This too bears investigation.

Church Archives

I also plan to write to the Evangelical Church Archives in the Rhineland for possible record of William. Which ones to write to though is a problem.

The Internet

There are many German genealogical sites on the Internet. I have left family information on some of them but have not had any responses. One site is maintained by an American who is interested in doing some research in the archives in Kaiserslautern. I have contacted this person and am awaiting a reply.

A posting to the Internet news list surnames-german-l@rootsweb.com brought an interesting response from a Protestant resident of Strasbourg. He told me that the Protestants were never persecuted in the Alsace (but this is in dispute because of the Guth paper[72]) and that it was unlikely that the family of William and Abram had fled from there to the Rhineland. But because of this information I now lean more to an origin in Lorraine. He also presented a theory on "Swatrakee". He said the "Swa" could be "Schwa" in German and that kee might have been a local dialectic form of "kheim", suggesting the place might be "Schwatrakheim". The only problem with that is that I have found no place with that name.

Chapter 4

William Persing/Person - Our Immigrant Ancestor

Origin and Time of Emigration

William Persing [*] was living in an as yet unknown location in Alsace/Lorraine or Germany when he and his brother Abram made the decision to emigrate to America. Political and religious events in the area which preceded their emigration confirm the circumstances of the departure as related to the author's brother by his father. According to this family story, the Persings were Huguenots, although it is clear now that William was German speaking rather than French, as a Huguenot origin would suggest. William and his brothers were apparently under local pressure to align themselves with the Catholic Church in order to retain their farmland. The decision was made that the heir to the farm, an as yet unidentified brother, would do so and William and brother Abram would go to America rather than leave their Protestant faith. This story ties in well with the political /religious changes that had been taking place in the previous half century or so. These upheavals were so complex in timing and regional impact that it is futile to venture a guess at the specific events that led to this decision. Neither parameter is certain in our ancestor's case. Until these factors are known a scenario is only a speculation. However for any who wish to proceed on their own, I have included my thoughts on European research in Chapter 3.

Floyd's Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania[5] states that "William Persing Sr. was born in Germany, and coming to the Colonies settled in Jersey before the Revolutionary War". An additional statement that "he married in Germany and had two children when he emigrated" appears to be incorrect. William and Barbara's oldest children were thought to be Catherine b. 13Feb1759 and Margaret b. 23Apr1762. (It was later found that George was b. 19Aug1760.) Based on these dates it was thought that William arrived in the Colonies about 1763 until later discoveries[38] suggested that "Floyd"s' informant was merely passing along a tradition that had no primary documentation. Floyd's information is probably correct about the "German" origin but the time is in dispute due to these discoveries.

Another confirmation of the "German" origin is given in a note (see chapter 16) placed separately in a bible[4.1] once held by the family of Dean W. Persing (42312) of Storm Lake, Iowa and Columbus, Ohio, now deceased. The bible is now in the keeping of a grandniece. The note says that William and his brother Abram came from "Swatrakee", Germany. This account was given verbally to Samuel Persing (423) by Mary Persing Haas (40) about 1860 and was "to the best of her recollection". There are problems with the account but the important information in it is that William's brother's name was Abram and that it agrees with

Floyd's statement that William came from Germany.

Extensive inquiry and research into the references to "Swatrakee" and Germany in the above records have led me to conclude that "Swatrakee" may be a corruption, due to transcription of a nearly illegible handwriting, of perhaps Zweibrücken or Saarbrücken. While records of Persings in the town of Daun in the Rhineland[75] do not substantiate the above conclusion, neither do they disqualify it because no certain link has been made to William Persing. Zweibrücken or Saarbrücken would be in agreement with the Alsace/Lorraine tradition that prevails among present day Persings in the United States because they once were included in the general territory, Alsace/Lorraine, which extended to Luxembourg in the 14th and 15th centuries.

It should be noted that some experienced genealogists have disagreed with my conclusion concerning "Swatrakee". However they did so before a record[75] of Persings was found in the Rhineland. One suggestion was that "Swatrakee" is a corruption of Swatara Creek, Pa., a location now in Lebanon County, Pa., and that William and Barbara went there before going to New Jersey. This cannot be discounted because there is a gap of seven years between the birthdate of their first child, Catherine (1759) and what may be the first public record of their presence in New Jersey, a U.S. Census record[57] that son Mathias (2) was born in New Jersey. This was in 1766. A search of church records in the Swatara Creek, Lebanon County, Pa. area produced no record of them, however it was not exhaustive. Other arguments can be made for a presence in New Jersey in the 1760's notably Floyd's information that son Mathias "was born in New Jersey". Lack of records in New Jersey can be explained by the reported loss of early records of the Reformed congregation which met at the "Straw Church" of Greenwich.[Nd2-4] These arguments suggest that there was no presence in Swatara Creek, Pa. at least after William's marriage, leaving the Rhineland or Saarbrücken location of "Swatrakee" to be favored. There are always other factors which could be brought to bear such as where was William before he married. The period of time involved includes the French and Indian War and William could well have gone to Swatara, retreating to Bucks County when Indian raids threatened his life. So, the matter of "Swatrakee" remains unresolved.

Lastly, the Warren County Surrogate notes in his recorded copy[Na] of William's will that it is "signed in German". The original will on file at Trenton bears the signature "Willem Persing" or perhaps "Pörsing" or "Passing". The signature is that of a man of 90 years, which makes it difficult to be certain of the spelling. This record confirms a German identification.

In 1988 I discovered records[38], which show that William was not married when he left Alsace/Lorraine. They also point to an

arrival earlier than that deducted from the Floyd statements. Furthermore they indicate a residence in Pennsylvania prior to New Jersey. Follow up on these records in 1989 has substantiated that they are documentations of William Persing. I have included them in the chapter on documentation so each reader can see my reasoning in arriving at this conclusion.

Initial Residence in America

Floyd's account states that William Persing resided in Greenwich, Sussex County, New Jersey. The "Haas" account[4.1] says that William and his brother settled in the vicinity of Belvidere, New Jersey. They are roughly ten miles apart so the records are in agreement. An early documentation[Nv] of William's presence in Sussex County 04May1772 is from a deed transferring property at Greenwich to a William Person and others. It can be seen that there is a gap of about seven years between the 1759 baptism of Catherine (A) and the birth of Mathias (2) in New Jersey in 1766. It remains to be discovered at what specific time in this period William and Barbara left Pennsylvania for New Jersey. It is likely that it was by 1760 since no more birth records appear at the Tohicken church. If certain records of an Abraham Passinger in Bucks and Northampton Counties prove to be of Wiliam's brother, Abram, then only William moved to New Jersey.

Additional evidence for the Greenwich location is found in records[Nd3,Nj] of Christ Church Greenwich and in records[Nd4] of the German Reformed Church of Easton, Pa. as well as in his sons' militia enrollments[Nm] and in William's will[Na] filed and probated at Belvidere, now held at Trenton.

After considerable research the specific site is believed to be along the Lopatcong Creek at Lower Harmony on property now occupied by the Harker's Hollow Country Club. William's will, giving certain information about neighbors, the existence of grist mills, and names of property owners on early maps of the area serve to confirm the site location.

Godfrey Person and William Person - Are They the Same Person?

Some interesting statements appear in Snell's History of Sussex and Warren County, New Jersey[Nb]. On page 671 it is stated that "Godfrey Person was located at Lower Harmony before the (Revolutionary) war and during its progress was a popular landlord". Also, on page 675, that "he erected a clover mill and built and kept a tavern" (used as a blacksmith shop in 1881). "Mr. Person left one son Capt. Jacob who inherited the property and remodeled the old clover mill, later owned by sons John and Jeremiah. The old clover mill located upon a brook running through the place has since been converted to a grist mill owned by William Vanatta" (in 1881). Further, a mill built by John Sharp ca.1809 was known as Holdern's Mill in 1881. "Captain Person built a mill on the same stream in 1812". Snell also

recorded a statement of Joseph Howell, son of John and son-in-law of George Geasarrh, that "his father (John Howell) used to go over to PERSON's on the mountainside to mill". A ca.1850 township map[Nz] shows two mills along Lopatcong Creek at Harker's Hollow and the site is clearly at the "mountainside" of Scott's Mountain. William's will[Na1] states that he had loaned money to his son Jacob to build a grist mill and the debt was still outstanding at his death. The will and the census data which convinced me that Jacob Persing and Jacob Person are the same person suggest very strongly that William Persing may be the same person as Godfrey Person. Some may question that William's son Jacob is the same Jacob as is said to be the son of Godfrey in Snell's history. The ages, however, of all the persons involved in the records, at least show that they were contemporaries. Godfrey Person is a mystery to Warren County historians and although I have no primary evidence to link "Godfrey" and William Persing, it is a matter worth pursuing. To do so, I have forwarded the material suggesting a connection to the Warren County, N.J. and Northampton County, Pa. Historical Societies. It has been a major disappointment that I have never received a response from either of them. For the present, the most that can be drawn from the linkage of the surnames PERSING and PERSON is that there may be a connection between "Godfrey" and the family of William Persing Sr. Chapter 16 includes a summation of the evidence for this conclusion.

Life and Occupation in New Jersey

It appears that William's occupation was that of farming as was the case with many of the German immigrants. His sons John and William were involved in distilling in Pennsylvania. Jacob's son Christopher was a blacksmith, then an innkeeper in Washington, N.J. This might indicate that William also had something to do with these occupations. Property transactions found at the Newton, Sussex County, N.J. courthouse indicate he owned considerable land and had purchased lands from Lawrence Minnager and Valentine Metz. These men were joint purchasers with William Person of the homestead lands at Lower Harmony. Floyd tells us that he became acquainted there with George Washington as a result of the encampment of some of his army near his farm. Family tradition says that George Washington himself knocked on William's door one evening and asked permission to put up his troops on William's land for the night.

I made an effort to verify this story. George Washington had kept a diary both before and after the war. But during the war years he had no time for keeping it. However he had agreed to leading the Revolutionary Army for expenses only, no salary to be paid. This meant he had to keep an expense account and this he did through his adjutants. These records have been published as George Washington's Expense Account[86]. As a major record of his movements during the war years, it is valuable to historians. In researching this volume, I found an entry dated September, 1782 "To the expenses of a reconnoitre as far as

Phillipsburg & then across from Dobbs Ferry to ye Sound with a large party of Hosse 842.40." It is interesting that in June, 1782 the same amount of 842.40 appears as the expense of another tour to Albany-Saratoga & Schenectady on a visit to our Northern Posts. It is likely that on the September "reconnoitre"; General Washington stopped off at William Person's farm which was on the "great road from Easton to Newton" to camp overnight on his way to Dobb's Ferry and Long Island Sound. Possibly the adjutant's records are more detailed than the expense account and may confirm the stay at William Person's farm but I have not had a look at them.

Much remains to be uncovered about the New Jersey years and I would appreciate hearing from any New Jersey PERSONs who could shed more light on these times. Clues might be found in the Histories of Palatine families who settled in the Sussex/Warren County area. Many of these families had been friends or neighbors in the Palatinate and either arrived in America together or within a few years of each other. Pre 1800 Sussex County records at Trenton might also add to our knowledge of the early years.

Residence in Pennsylvania

William and Barbara lived in Bucks Co., Pennsylvania[38] from at least 1757 to 1759 when daughter Catherine was born. Between then and 1766 they moved to Greenwich, New Jersey. They later owned a farm in Northumberland County and probably visited the area but it does not seem that they ever made their home there. The farm in Pennsylvania was willed[Na] to their grandson William (61), son of Philip, in 1829.

The Surnames (Persing and Person)

Records of William (*) and his sons present a major difficulty because of the use of the surnames PASSING(ER), PERSING, BOSSAN and PERSON. No certain reason for this has been found but I have several theories.

A French origin might explain the use of the alternate surname PERSON at various times[57] in the early American records since the surname Bossan found in the Tohicken Church records means person in French. The form Person also appears in modern day France but then again the surname PERSON is found today in Germany, England and other Central and Northern European countries. I would prefer to think that this surname came into use because of language differences between immigrants resulting in corruptions of spelling and pronunciations by them and the English authorities. But it has been a confusing and complicating situation in trying to determine the national origin of William (*). It should be remembered that there was no federal Germany in those days. The evidence gathered thus far points to identification with German speaking people rather than French.

The 1830 Census of New Jersey[Nq] lists Jacob, John and William PERSING as residents of Greenwich Township, Warren County. These are Jacob, son of William (*), and two of Jacob's sons. In the 1840 Census they are listed in the same location as PERSON. It appears that Jacob and his family continued with the surname PERSON from then on except for the listing of William, Jacob's son, in the 1850 census as PURSING. Any PERSONs who have roots in Warren County, New Jersey should give consideration to their being descended from William Persing (*). However, since PERSONs of unknown relationship to William Persing are known to have been in the area in 1830, care should be taken to be sure positive identification is made before establishing a line of descent from William. Besides this, some of Jacob's descendants are known to have changed the spelling to Pearson (354) and Pierson (351) which adds to the problem of identifying Jacob's descendants in New Jersey.

It is possible that the reason for continuing the surname PERSON in New Jersey is that William's wife, Barbara was buried as PERSON and that in order to keep the family identity in New Jersey intact, the surname PERSON was used on William's gravestone[Nc7]. The primary evidence for linking the two surnames is found in William's will[Na] where changes to Jacob's surname are made in the text of a codicil. Another codicil even refers to William Sr. as William Person. A letter of administration also makes it clear that Jacob Persing, son of William (*), was known as Jacob Person.

Last Resting Place

William and Barbara are buried in the graveyard of the Harmony Presbyterian Church[Nc7], not surprising as they were neighbors of the Rev. Garner Hunt, first pastor of that church. The gravestones were legible enough in 1984 to read their names but little else. They are buried as William and Barbara PERSON, again not surprising, as they were in all probability, buried by the one son remaining in New Jersey at the time of their deaths, i.e. Jacob who clearly used the surname PERSON. A confirmation of their identity is found in the presence of their daughter, Catherine Person Yeager in the second grave to the right of theirs.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

WILLIAM PERSING (*) was born in 1733 possibly in the dukedom of Zweibrücken, which included parts of the present German states of the Rhineland-Pfalz and Saarland, and certain areas of adjacent French provinces, all of which was known as Alsace and Lorraine in William's era. Family tradition indicates that he and his brothers were under political/religious pressure to abandon their Protestant faith, possibly because of a realignment of churches which allowed no room for choice except to relocate to Protestant towns. Rather than do so, he and brother Abram chose to leave their home and emigrate to America. A third brother remained in Alsace/Lorraine and joined the Catholic church in order to retain the family farm. Whether William and his family were active dissenters or were of a Huguenot family that had fled from France in the 17th century or earlier is not known, but this identity often causes confusion about their nationality.

William left Alsace/Lorraine for America before 16Oct1757, for that is the date of the earliest record of his presence in America that has been found. None have been found of his departure from Europe nor of his arrival in the Colonies. Ship passenger lists have been searched but no positive identification has been made. Since he was only 24 years old in the 1757 Bucks County, Pa. record[38] it is probable that he arrived in the 1750's. Following his marriage to Barbara Drum on 01Nov1757 at the Tohicken Reformed Church, he appears to have continued to live in Bedminster Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. until some time after daughter Catherine was born in 1759. Since no more record of his family appears in Bucks County, it is assumed he relocated to New Jersey between 1759 and 1760 when son George was born, certainly by 1766 when son Mathias was born. Mathias is said to have been born in New Jersey by Floyd[5] and the U.S.Census[57].

The earliest documentation of William's personal presence in New Jersey may be in 1772 when a William Person appears in Sussex County, N.J. records as a grantee in a transaction[Nu] between a number of parties involving a land transfer in Greenwich Township. The following year a William Bossan appears in the tax records[Nk]. The surname Bossan, which is possibly the original family name in France (assuming a Huguenot past) appears in the Bucks County, Pa. records mentioned above. Its appearance in New Jersey tax records as well, lends support to identification of the Bucks County records as records of William Persing/Person. Of uncertain interpretation is the appearance of the name Mathias Bossan in the same New Jersey tax records. This Mathias would seem not to be William's son as in 1773 he would have been only 7 years old and unlikely to have been on a tax list. The identification of this Mathias may have as much impact on what is known of William's arrival as the Bucks County records, which refute the Floyd account of an arrival with a

wife and two children.

In Greenwich, he owned and operated a farm along the Lopatcong Creek at Lower Harmony. The site is now occupied by the Harker's Hollow Country Club. Some of his neighbors were the Rev. Garner Hunt, Jacob Allshouse and Henry Bidleman[Na1]. Little is known of William's life in the Colonies. There is some evidence that he was enrolled in the New Jersey Militia in 1777. At present it is not known if this military service involved actual fighting in the Revolutionary War but a family tradition says that he was acquainted with George Washington by virtue of an encampment on his farm[5]. Not found in Floyd are details that General Washington himself knocked on William's door one evening and requested permission to encamp his troops on William's farm for the night. He was among the pioneer settlers of the Lower Harmony area and enjoyed the confidence of his peers as evidenced by his appointment[Ni,Nm] to the consistory of his church and service as a deacon on two known occasions. He was a member of the Greenwich Congregation of the German Reformed Church also known as Christ Church - Greenwich which shared a meeting place with St. James Lutheran Church , the "Straw Church" near Stewartsville. He also was likely to have been a charter member of the Harmony Presbyterian Church which was formed about 1806, but the early records of this church are lost or destroyed. If he is the same person as the "Godfrey" Person of Snell's "History", then he was a popular landlord. One of the evidences that he was the same person is that he was a large landowner from at least 1772 into the 1800's when he began selling or transferring his properties to his sons and others.

Many New Jersey records[Na,Nc] refer to William as William PERSON, a surname which also appears in the U.S. Census and in church records in Pennsylvania about 1800, 1810 and even later, and in New Jersey in 1840 and on. William's will of 1823 leaves little doubt that the preferred form of surname for use in legal documents by that time was PERSING for that is the spelling used in the text. His signature on the will appears as Persing, Pörsing or Passing. This is so even though the name PERSON appears in a codicil to the will and on his tombstone.

In addition to the New Jersey farm, William owned a farm[Na1] in Shamokin Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. It is likely that he acquired this land as a result of possible service in the New Jersey Militia. He gave this farm to his youngest son Philip in the initial will but changed it later to give it to Philip's son William to operate until Philip's death at which time it was to pass to Philip's surviving children. This change was due to Philip's disability which made it impossible for him to farm.

William and his wife Barbara were the parents of six sons and two daughters. All but Catherine and Jacob relocated to Northumberland County, Pa. The other children were George, Mathias, William Jr., John, Philip and Margaret. He was preceded

in death by his daughter Catherine in 1817, his wife in 1820 and by his son Mathias in 1826. William died 06Mar1829 in New Jersey at 96 years of age, leaving his New Jersey farm to son Jacob. He is buried in the Harmony Presbyterian Church Cemetery beside his wife Barbara and daughter Catherine Person Yeager.

Some Public Records of **WILLIAM PERSING (*)**

Source	Record
5	Born in Germany, emigrated to Colonial America, lived at Greenwich, Sussex County, New Jersey before the Revolutionary War
3.6	Appears in Meiser records
38	Record of marriage to Barbara Drum Record of presence at baptism of daughter Maria Catherine[A]
Na	Will of William Persing
Nb	Possible identity as "Godfrey" Person, earliest settler of Lower Harmony, N.J.
Nc7	Burial place
Nd3,Nd4	Appointments to consistory (1788) and as deacon (1793-1794)
Nd4	Witness at baptisms of grandchildren
Ni,Nm	Appears in published church records
Nk	Listing of William as William Bossan in tax lists
Np	Inquiry on family Persing/Person
Nv	Greenwich, New Jersey property deed

Chapter 5

Barbara Drum Persing

Origin and Time of Emigration

The parentage and origin of Barbara Drum remains undetermined. I think it can be safely concluded that she was of the family Drum of the Kusel Valley in the Rhineland. But I have not found a record of her birth either there or in America. According to her tombstone inscription read by Mrs. Rosebury she was born in 1737. Although I have sought to identify her with Simon Drum of Kreidersville, Northampton Co., Pa. there is no primary evidence that he was her father. There are records of Barbara's presence at a baptism of a child Maria Catherine Barbara born to a John and Maria Drum, possibly a brother, and of a Philip Drum's presence at her own wedding. This Philip could be a brother also of Barbara's. Although Simon of Kreidersville had a son Philip, he had no living son John at the time of the baptism.

An interesting scenario could be built around the naming of her children. It was common practice to name the first children after the father's parents, the next after the wife's parents and so on through brothers and sisters. This would make William's father George and his mother Catherine. It would make Barbara's father Mathias and her mother Margaret. But it may have been that their first child Catherine was named after William's mother and the second child, George after Barbara's father. It would make William's father Mathias and his mother Margaret. This is just speculation because naming practices were not always followed.

I have been in touch with a large group of descendants of various Drum, Drumm, Trum and Trump immigrants and hopefully they will come up with our Barbara. There are other variations of the spelling of this surname so the search should keep this in mind. One of these descendants is Mrs. Annette Burgert author of Eighteenth Century Emigrants, Volume II, The Western Palatinate[3.7c]

Barbara died 10Aug1820 and is buried with William at Harmony Presbyterian church, Harmony, NJ.

CHAPTER 6

GEORGE PERSING (1) AND SOME DESCENDANTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

GEORGE PERSING (1), eldest son of William (*) and Barbara (Drum) Persing was born 19AUG1760 possibly at Lower Harmony, New Jersey where his parents may have moved from Pennsylvania as early as that year. His father William was a German speaking emigrant from Alsace/Lorraine to the American Colonies perhaps ca 1750. One possible record of George in New Jersey has been found and it raises some questions as yet unanswered, if it is in fact a record of George Persing. George's will[19] names his wife as Hannah. Vol. 8, pg. 237 of the New Jersey Archives[No] lists the marriage of an Eva Luckenbach d/o John to George PESING at Hope, Sussex County. (Just north of Harmony, there is a sign pointing to Hope. There is also a Hope on NJ 519 near I-80. Which one was the place of the marriage is not known.) This record also appears in New Jersey Marriages 1665-1800[Nf]. No date is given in either listing. It is possible that Eva is the same person as Hannah. One evidence for this is found in the names of his first two sons. They are William and John. If certain German naming practices were followed, William was named after his father's father and John was named after his mother's father. Eva Luckenbach's father was John, but since I do not know the name of Hannah's father at this time, this is inconclusive.

The next records of George are of his presence in Northumberland County, Penna. In 1787 the name George PEARSON appears on local tax lists[9]. In 1789 a George PARSON (from Jersey) is listed as the owner of 150 acres and 1 cow. In 1793, he acquired the land of John Simpson. In 1794, he possesses 186 acres and 4 cows; in 1796 and 1799, 186 acres, a cabin and a barn. It should be noted that in the 1794 record the name George PEARSON appears adjacent to the name George Persing, so that there is some question about the 1787 entry being George PERSING. However, from a history of Tioga County, Pa.[20], a record of John Persing (11) says that he was a "native of Northumberland County". This John was born in 1786 and is most likely a son of George as none of his brothers had yet left New Jersey. This points to George's presence in Northumberland County as early as 1786. In the History of Columbia and Montour Counties[16], Chapter 2, Page 65, it is said that the migration of Germans and others from Hunterdon and Sussex Counties of New Jersey to Northumberland County, Penna. took place between 1785 and 1802 and that this mass move was connected with the prior locating of former neighbors and relatives from Germany to that area. The latter Germans had purchased their lands in Northumberland County from Patentees. I am of the opinion that both George and his father William obtained their farms in Northumberland County through their associations with Revolutionary War officers who had received land in Pennsylvania

as compensation for their war service.

Another record of George in Pennsylvania is as a signer of a petition by residents of Ralpho Township to change the name of the township to Shamokin Township. The petition was presented to the local governing body on the 4th Tuesday of August 1789. Reference to this petition is made in the Northumberland County Historical Society's Proceedings[7], Vol. 7, Pgs. 241 and 242 and in the History of Columbia County[18], Chapter 1, Pg. 67.

George Persing's farm was located at various times in one of eight townships and possibly three counties. This was the result of political subdivisions. George and his family never left the original homestead. At the time of his death, sons George, Mathias and Peter and daughter Catherine were still living on the land for there were four log homes and four barns located on it. William seems to have gotten married and relocated. George's will stated that the farm should be sold and the proceeds distributed equally to his children. At least some of it was sold[9-2] to Mathias and Peter and David Fox, husband of George's daughter Margaret. In 1844 Mathias and Peter resold some of their lands to William Leisenring. George (12) does not seem to have figured in these transactions, possibly due to his relocation. It is certain that daughter Catherine died in 1842, and George (12), who had lived on his parent's farm, was faced with caring for his mother. He evidently moved and maybe took his mother with him. According to their father's will, both he and Catherine had been granted a home with their mother as long as they cared for her. In 1864 Mathias sold some of his land to Henry Hoffman and in 1876 to Lucinda Yeager (possibly a daughter). Peter then seems to be the only one to have retained some of the original land and in 1884 he sold it to his son David (152). In 1885 David sold a portion of his land(s?) to Joseph Lynn. Lastly David sold some of his land to son Elwood (1521) in 1918. Not having traced the deeds on these transactions, the author is not certain that any of the original parcel was possessed by Elwood in 1918 because additional lands had been purchased in this time frame by the various parties. It would not be too wild a speculation though, that at least some of it was in the hands of Elwood's son David (15211) who lived in present day Cleveland Township adjacent to Knoebel's Grove on Route 487 between Elysburg and Catawissa until he died in 1995.

George's will is dated 17Feb1834. James Bird and Jacob Leisenring filed it for probate in Columbia County in March 1840. The will names all his children and directed that his home be left to his wife, Hannah along with certain other possessions and that the residue of the estate be divided equally to his children. George probably died in 1840, near the time his will was filed. To date it is not known where he is buried but a possible location would be the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Columbia County near Bear Gap, Pa. where some of his descendants are buried. Many of the older graves appear to be unmarked but it is possible that the markers have sunk into the earth over

the years.

Some of George's descendants can be found in the Bear Gap area and in Northern Counties of Penna. such as Tioga and Potter. Another large number of his descendants lived in Mt. Carmel, Pa. but many of these have removed from that area and are widely dispersed.

JOHN PERSING (11), son of George (1), was born ca 1786. Some records indicate the year of birth as 1794 but this seems too late a date for him to have already had a wife and one child when he went to Tioga County in 1814. He was a native of Northumberland County, Pa. according to Brown's History of Tioga County, Pa.[21] 1786 is the earliest date known for a Persing to have been in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania and is earlier than a 1787 record of John's father, George in the Northumberland County Tax Lists[9]. In 1814, he traveled to Tioga County, Pa., taking a canoe up Pine Creek from the Williamsport area to Gaines. "He was accompanied by his wife and one child, leaving another with his grandparents at their home in Northumberland County" according to Munsell's History of Tioga County, Pa.[20]. (Auth. It is not certain whether these were John's or the child's grandparents but they were likely to be George (1) and Hannah since the residence of William (*) and Barbara was in New Jersey.) There may be some conflict in timing with his trip to Gaines because John was also a veteran of the War of 1812 although his tour of service was brief, having been in the service less than two weeks. He was discharged in November 1814.

John was a pioneer settler of Gaines and probably was drawn there by lumbering opportunities. He appears to have returned to Columbia County at least temporarily for he is listed in the 1820 Census as living with his family in Catawissa Twp. Munsell's History of Tioga County, Pa.[20] says that in 1824 he settled in what is known as Wall (Walnut?) Bottom, Tioga County. "His house stood near the present (1883) mill dam on the estate of Silas X. Billings". In 1830 the U.S. Census lists him and his family living in Shippen Twp., Tioga Co. In 1840, he moved to Potter Co., Pa. where he located in Hector Township. Other listings in the Hector Township census are: M. (Mathias?) in 1840 and Mathias and Joseph in 1850 and 1860. These are sons of John (11) as given in the LDS record below. In 1860, he returned to Gaines where he lived with his son Reuben until he died at the age of 99 on 10Oct1885. In an LDS record of the family, his wife's name is given as Betsey E Garrison. His return to Gaines might indicate that she had died in Potter Co. and is buried there. He was the progenitor of many descendants still residing in the northern tier counties, Tioga and Potter. Among these was Burl Persing (11141) of Gaines who provided much of the information for the family tree of his grandfather Reuben (111).

John was a short-term veteran of the War of 1812. He was

drafted at Catawissa, Columbia Co., Pa. and had served in Captain Samuel Benjamin's Company, Penna. Militia for about eleven days when the war ended. His tour of duty was from 12Nov1814 to 24Nov1814. He was discharged at Danville. Military records list him as John Persey. This information was obtained from military records in the National Archives, specifically pension and bounty land applications made when he was in his 90's. They were rejected because his term of service was less than fourteen days. However, he did receive an annuity of $75 per year from the Commonwealth of Penna. for his military service. He is buried in the Mattison Family Cemetery (Old Pioneer) in Gaines, Tioga County, Pa.

A John Persing operated a tannery in Venango County in 1820 according to Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen[49]. John Persing (11) went to Tioga County in 1814 and lived there in 1830 and in Potter County in 1840. It is possible that he went to Venango County in 1820.

REUBEN PERSING (111), son of John (11) was born 21Apr1827 at Hicks Run near Cross Fork, Tioga County, Pa. This date appears in a family bible possessed by a grandson, Burl (11141), now deceased, and is noted here because there are a number of conflicting dates in various records. Nothing is known of his childhood days. He was married three times, first in 1854 to Elizabeth (Lydia) who was born in 1835 and died in 1855. She is buried in the Old Pioneer Cemetery. They had a son William G. (1111) born 03Apr1855. Next, in 1859, he married Sarah (Sally) Mattison born 07Mar1840. They had two daughters and four sons. Mary A. was born 15Nov1873; she married Egbert Wheaton. Elizabeth was born 16Nov1860, married Jerry Hurlbert. Their children were Fred, Jesse, Harry and Nellie (Tice). Reuben and Sarah's sons were George H. (1112) born 22Jul1869, David R. (1113) born 27Nov1877, Robert D. (1114) born 06Jul1879 and John H. (1115) born 29May1866. Sarah (Sally) Mattison Persing died 02Mar1891. Lastly in 1894 Reuben married Maria Schoonover, a widow, born Sept 1841. Reuben was a veteran of the Civil War in which he lost his right arm. He was attached to Co. H, 46th Penna. Infantry. He died 10Feb1906 and is buried in the Mattison Family cemetery south of Route 6 on Lick Run Road, near Rexford, Pa. Maria is buried at Knowlton Cemetery beside her first husband, F.J. Schoonover.

Reuben (111) son of John (11) lived in the same time frame as Reuben (412) and some confusion existed in trying to sort out the descendants of the two as they appeared in various Tioga County records. It should be noted that there is another line of Persings in Tioga County in the general area of the town of Tioga in the northeastern part of the county. These Persings have been identified as descendants of Reuben (412).

GEORGE HENRY PERSING (1112) was born 22Jul1869, son of Reuben and Sarah Sally Mattison. He attended the Orphan's School at Mansfield and later worked in lumbering and as a railroad conductor. He first married _____ Tice and then Lola Katherine Cole. Lola was born in Watrous, Pa. d/o Warren Cole. Warren Cole and his brother Wallace were founders of the Cole Brothers Circus. Lola, a nurse, was first married to Robert Atkins. George Persing and Robert were friends in the lumbering business and when Robert died in an accident, George helped Lola with her family and later married her. Lola had two children by Robert Atkins; Katherine (Minnie) who married Charles Paslek or Pascall and Arthur who later was known to have lived in Michigan. George and Lola lived in Galeton, Pa. where he and his brother Robert were carpenters involved in the purchase and remodeling of old homes. When one of the homes, in which they lived while remodeling, burned down, he and two sons, John H. and George Jr. moved to Corning, N.Y. to live with his son Miles. George and Lola's children are listed in the tree of George (1).

JOHN HARRIS PERSING (11123) was born 07Jul1912. Social Security records indicate 1913. He was a member of the 109th Hospital Company of the Penna. National Guard located at Wellsboro. Probably at the time of WWII, he was called into the army and was stationed at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland. He had married Jane Loretta Calka in July of 1935 at Baltimore and lived in Baltimore ca 1940. At some time in his marriage he and Jane were separated or divorced. He then married Eleta Bell, a nurse, and lived at Middle River, Md. Lastly he married Gloria Jackson at Green Haven, Md. He spent his last years in a Veterans Hospital and died on 14Jul1991 at Bath, N.Y.

JOAN MARIE PERSING (111230) was born on 21Oct1940. She currently lives in Baltimore, MD. Joan visited the author and his wife at their home in Derry Township, PA and provided additional information on the descendants of Reuben (111) for which I am grateful since she added considerably to the branches of that tree. She is retired from a hospital job but finds much opportunity for volunteer work. I have kept in touch with Joan via regular mail and more recently via e-mail.

SARAH PERSING GIGLIO (11130) was born 09Feb1909 at Marshlands, Pa. near Galeton. She is the daughter of David R. and Cora (Hakes) Persing. She graduated from Mansfield State College and taught school at various places. On 09Jul1931 she married Joseph Giglio who worked for much of his life as a machinist for the Erie Railroad. They had five children, Joseph born 04Jan1932, Carol born 04Jan1935, Harold born 08Apr1943, Charles born 29 April 1945 and David B. born 19Aug1946. Joseph died 27Sep1982 and is buried at Orchard Park, N.Y. where Sarah presently lives. Sarah and her family have had a keen interest in the family origin which is inspiring to the author. I had the pleasure of

meeting her in November of 1987 as my wife and I were returning to Harrisburg after visiting our daughter in Canada. She is a gracious hostess, making us feel most welcome and we enjoyed an hour's conversation about our families.

MARSHALL PERSING (11131) was born 17Sep1906 at Marshlands, Pa. near Galeton. He was the son of David R. and Cora (Hakes) Persing. He married Lucy Yanoni and they had three sons, Ronald born 07Aug1932, David and Philip, deceased. Philip is buried at San Demas, Calif.. Marshall died 12Aug1983 and is buried at Coral Springs, Fla. Lucy died 15Mar1997. Lucy had been in touch with Zelna wife of C. Ely Persing (53121) in regard to the family tree and provided me with additional information for George's line. His son Ron has kept in touch with me since 1990 by telephone and visited us in Florida in the Spring of 1998.

BURL PERSING (11141) was born 12Sep1921 at Gaines, Pa. son of Robert D. and Clara Bell (Wetmore) Persing. Burl married Marjorie Dewey and enjoyed a happy union of 49 years. They had four children, Carol Lee married Peter Stulz, Jacqueline married Frank Bosek, Wendy Elizabeth married Ted Sykora and Lawrence D. who married Margaret L. Moore. Burl and Marj made their home at the east end of Gaines along U.S. Route 6. I had the pleasure of visiting them in 1985 as my wife and I were returning home from the funeral of my cousin Gerry (54410) at Eldred, Pa. We had a pleasant time and they were most helpful in confirming the information that I had gathered from the U.S. Census and other public records in regard to the descendants of Reuben (111). Later Burl and Marj added additional information on his line of descent. Burl operated a grocery store in Gaines and later became a postman. He retired from that job and spent his last years at his home. He died on 05Jan1992 after a lengthy illness. He is buried in the Knowlton Cemetery at Gaines, Pa. I have kept in touch with Marj since 1985.

GEORGE PERSING (12) was born 13Jul1789 in Shamokin Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. He grew up and lived on his parent's farm at least until the death of his father in 1840. He married Ida _____ ca 1816 and probably lived in one of four log cabins which were built on his parent's land. When his father died, he and sister Catherine were asked to care for their mother until her death. The 1840 census indicates four females in his family who I assume to be daughters but whose names are unknown to the author. One of these might be Elizabeth (1813-1891) who married James Yocum (1815-1897). A son George S (121) has been identified in the Farrow Funeral Home records. He may have had another son, Peter (122) but this has not been verified. It is possible that his mother Hannah died within the decade following his father's death and George evidently moved away from the homestead and is found in Lower Augusta Twp., Northumberland Co. in 1850. In the same year his brothers Mathias and Peter are listed in the Census as still living in Roaring Creek Twp. very likely on the homestead farm. It is likely too that the death of

his sister Catherine in 1842 had something to do with his move away from the farm. Since the first edition I have discovered a family bible[4.3] giving George's death as 02May1865. Other than the family bible no additional information has been located about his family.

GEORGE S. PERSING (121) was born 14Jun1817 in Catawissa Twp., Columbia Co., Pa. Information found concerning him is taken from census, church, family bible and funeral records. He married Mary Fagley and had three known children, Israel, Stephen and Albert who were living at home with him at the time of the 1850 and 1860 census. He lived in Shamokin in 1870. Boyd's 1886-1888 Shamokin /Sunbury Directory lists a George S. living at Oneida, Springfield, occupation miner. He died 06Mar1893 and is buried at Irish Valley M. E. Church. According to a notation in a family bible Mary Fagley died 04Oct1862. The bible was kept by son Stephen and is currently in the possession of Charles (121221) who lives in York, PA.

STEPHEN K. PERSING (1212) was born in Northumberland Co., PA on 21Sep1845. He would have been just 17 when his mother died. He was a veteran of the Civil War being enrolled on 08May1864 at Harrisburg as a private in Co. B, 184th Regiment, PVI. He was wounded near Petersburg on 23Jun1864 and was transferred to Co. H, 21st Regular Reserve Corps. He was discharged at Trenton, NJ on 31Jul1865. He married Mary Magdalene Fuller of Coneswego, PA at St. Patrick's Church on 05Feb1865 and may have settled in York, PA after his discharge. His brother Albert was living with Sobers in Northumberland Co. at the time of the 1870 Census and Stephen is listed in the 1880 Census in York. He died in York, PA on 24Oct1909 and is buried with his wife at St. Patricks Cemetery in York. Mary died on 26Feb1922. A great granddaughter Barbara Slack of Scranton, Pa, provided most of this information.

WILLIAM PERSING (13) was born 06Jan1787 in Catawissa Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. He married Magdalena Kershner. It seems that for a time he resided on his parent's farm as he is said to have been a neighbor of Peter Yocum. He is also referred to in records as a chairmaker but in the 1860 census he is listed as a farmer living with son-in-law John Newman. He died in Oct 1862.

MATHIAS PERSING (14) was born 16Aug1800 at Shamokin Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. He married Hester A. Yocum 03Feb1829. They lived in one of four log cabins on his parent's farm. The 1840 census indicates they had one son 10-14 years of age. There is no known record of this son in the 1850 census. The 1850 census lists a Daniel, age 22, living with the family Kauffman, who could be the son listed in the 1840 census. After Mathias' father died, he and his brother Peter purchased the land on which they lived from their father's estate. In 1864 Mathias conveyed at least some of his land to Lucinda Yeager, possibly a daughter and to Henry Hoffman, possibly a son of Peter Hoffman

and Hannah (Persing)(1B), his sister. He appears in the U.S. Census for 1880 living with William and Lucinda Yeager. He died 20Oct1882. His wife Esther (Hester, Hettie) died 08Jun1874. They are buried at the Bear Gap M.E. Cemetery.

PETER PERSING (15) was born 29Dec1803 at Catawissa Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. He married Mary A. Taylor and lived in a log house on his father's farm. After his father's death, he and brother Mathias purchased the land on which their homes stood from their father's estate. He alone seems to have retained this land and passed it on to his son David (152). David in turn left it to son Elwood (1521). Although I have not checked for a transfer of deed to Elwood's son David, it is reasonable to assume that David (15211) who lived near Knoebel's Grove in present day Cleveland Twp. was living on some of George (1) Persing's original farmland. Peter died on 06Jul1886 and wife Mary on 25Oct1885. They are buried at the Bear Gap M.E. Cemetery.

DAVID PERSING (15211) was born 09Feb1909. He and his wife Gladys (Knoebel) had a home on the road from Elysburg to Catawissa adjacent to Knoebels Grove. I visited them some years ago and received from him much of the information on the descendants of Peter (15). He had no record of George (1) or of William (*), yet he was most likely living on some of George's original farm land in what is now Cleveland Township, Columbia County. For many years David was in charge of the rides at Knoebels Grove which has the dubious distinction of being located in three townships and two counties. George (1) too had experienced subdivisions which made it appear that he made numerous moves in his lifetime but I am convinced that he lived at the same place from 1786 until he died. A history of Ralpho Township in Northumberland County indicates that David was a director of the 1st National Bank of Elysburg in 1958. I regret that I have no more in the way of biographical information, for David must have had an interesting life in his involvement with Knoebels Grove. He died on 31Jan1995.

Some Public Records of **GEORGE PERSING (1)** and His Descendants

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
1	George	5	Family of William (*), Pg 195
		9-1	1787 Pearson (sic) 1789 Pearson (sic) 1793 Parson (sic) (from Jersey) land of John Simpson 1794 Persing- A George Pearson also appears next to George Persing raising doubt about 1787 & 1789 1796 Refers to a Joseph Persing on same page. This person unknown. 1798 and 1799 George Persing 1802 Log cabin and barn
		19-1a	Will dated 17Feb1834. Names family
		19-3a	Disposition of George's lands ca 1843 Adjacent to Benj. Camp, John Fisher, James Bird.
		6	Pg 728 Appears on a list of taxables in Ralpho Twsp. 1788
		7	Vol 7,Pgs 241,242 Signer of petition to change name of Ralpho Twp. to Shamokin Twp., 4th Tues.,August 1789
1A	Margaret	19-1a	w/o David Fox
1B	Hannah	19-1a	w/o Peter Hoffman
10	Catherine	19-1b	Filed 30Apr1842. Vol. 2 , Pg 215 Leaves inheritances to nieces Catherine and Hannah Elizabeth Fox d/o David and Margaret (1A) Fox, neighbors of Peter Yocum.
10	Rachel	31	Pg 19 d/o Geo m James Osman 21Apr1829
		19-1a	w/o James Osborn
11	John	75	Family of Joseph (113) AFN BTX9-67
		60	Veteran of War of 1812, Pvt., Capt. Samuel Benjamin's Co., Pa. Mil. Bounty land application Pension Application
		21	Page 215, Native of Northumberland Co. canoe trip from Williamsport Page 425, Settled on flat at Gaines
111	Reuben	2-2	G.A.R. Co. H, 46th Penna. Vol. Inf.
1111	William E	64-1	Married 04Jul1879 to Dell Warner of Coudersport

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
1113	David R	22-2	Married 03May1900 at Lindley, NY
w/o1113	Cora	22-2	Cora Hakes Froelich? d/o Ira and Angelina Hakes
1134	Asa E	75	AFN5G24-2V
12	George	14 Na1	Wife Ida Father's will
120	Elizabeth	14,30	w/o James Yocum
121	George	14	wife Mary Fagley Farrow Funeral Home record
1212	Stephen	60 58-1,2	G.A.R. Co. B, 184th Penna. Vol. Inf. Military and Pension Records
12133	John L	13-1	Died 16Apr1941 s/o Albert and Hannah (Herb), h/o Minnie Williams
13	William W	6 19-1a 9-2	Pg 797, occupation chairmaker, neighbor of Peter Yocum Chairmaker Will filed 20Oct1862
13 w/o13	William Molly	11-2	Communicants Spring 1817, Fall 1818 Both on record as Person
13A	Fanny	11-1	B 02Oct1815 d/o William and Magdalena Sponsors George Persing/Fanny Kershner (Was Fanny Kershner a w/o George (12) before Ida?)
130	Maria Anna	11-1	Bp 06Jun1819, sponsors George and Hannah Persong (sic)
13B	Hannah	11-1 30	Bp 19Mar1828 m Hiram Thomas 18Jan1852
131	Johann Peter	11-1	Bp 08Nov1812 s/o Wilhelm and Magdalena (Kershner) Person/Persing Sp Mathias Kerschner & wife Magdalena
132	Wm Riley	11-1	Bp 19Dec1821 Sponsors Michael and Elizabeth Hauer. Was Eliz. a Persing?
133	Mathias J	11-1	Bp 25Aug1825
134	George Schindel	11-1 31	Bp 29May1831 Pg 376 m Harriet Persing possibly widow of a relative

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
14	Mathias	31	Pg 17 s/o Geo. m. Hester Yocum 11-25 03Feb1829 d/o John of Roaring Creek
		19-3b	Disposition of property
		19-5b	Mortgage to William Leisenring
15	Peter	19-1c	d Tues 06Jul1886 Executor - Franklin Persing
		19-5a	Mortgage to William Leisenring
150	Lovina	6	Pg 1025 d/o Peter and Mary (Taylor) of Columbia County.
15B	Phoebe	6	Pg 1025 married David Camp
151	Frank	6	Pg 661, teamster,resided Mt. Carmel bet. 3rd & 4th 1860
w/o151	Mary	6	Pg 1067 (1167?) d/o Abram Ayers
151	Frank	57	1900 23 N. Hickory, Mt. Carmel
		9-2	Book 17, Pg 348 filed 19Nov1917
1510	Katie	9-3	19 N. Hickory, Mt. Carmel
	Olive May	9-3	21 N. Hickory, Mt. Carmel
	Blanche	9-3	23 N. Hickory, Mt. Carmel
1511	Alphonso	9-3	22 N. Hickory, Mt. Carmel
		57	"Alonzo" in 1900 census, aka Elijah.
1512	Alfred	9-3	17 N. Hickory, Mt. Carmel
151211	Jack	auth	Retired from Bell Telephone Co. of Pa.
152	David	19-1d	Executors Elwood and James
		19-4a	86-21
w/o152	Ursula	19-1e	Executor Elwood
		19-4b	130-8
1520	Minnie	19-3c	m Kersey S Pensyl 12Jan1893
15211	David	18,8	Director of 1st National Bank of Elysburg, 10Oct1958 Administrator of rides at Knoebel's Grove
		19-4b	130-8 Executor
w/o15211	Gladys	8	50 yr member Pres. Ch. Elysburg 1977
1523	Harry M	2-8	Attorney Bear Gap. Pa. m 21Jun1905

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
15231	Daniel H	2-8	Records of Harry M. Jr. (15232)
w/o15231	Kathryn	2-8	Both M.D.'s Temple 1936 m 05Dec1934
152311	Fred	2-8	Records of Harry M. Jr. (15232) m 27Feb1965
15232	Harry M Jr	2-8	Personal Records M.D. Univ. of Pa. 1934 m 05Jun1935

Records of additional descendants of George (1) may be found in reference sources pertaining to Columbia, Northumberland, Tioga and Potter Counties, Penna. and other states named in the genealogy of George (1) in this chapter.

CHAPTER 7

MATHIAS PERSING (2) AND SOME DESCENDANTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

MATHIAS PERSING (2) was born about 1766 in New Jersey, the second of six sons born to his parents William (*) and Barbara Persing (Person). The earliest record of him that has been located to date is a probable listing in the New Jersey Militia in 1793[Nh] in Grannage (Greenwich) Twsp., Sussex Co., N.J. His surname appears as Pierson as does that of his brother Jacob. The next record that has been found of him in New Jersey is that of the baptism of John, son of Mathias and Catherine PASSINGER at the German Reformed Church[Nd4] in Easton, Pa. John was born 06Dec1794 and was baptized on 02Feb1795. Godparents were John and Catherine Yeager. Catherine Person, daughter of William and Barbara, married John Yeager and is buried to the right of her parents in the Harmony Presbyterian Church graveyard. From this data and other references[Nd3] to the surname PASSINGER in connection with the Greenwich Congregation of the German Reformed Church, there seems to be little doubt that this is indeed a record of Mathias PERSING.

Mathias and his wife Katie (Catherine) Baker moved to Northumberland County, Pa. about 1796, where he is found on the tax lists[9] in 1796, 1799, 1802, 1805 and 1820. In Bell's History of Northumberland County, Pa.[6], pg. 158 we are told that Mathias Persing and John Snyder brought the first coal stoves for the Sunbury courthouse from Reading in the winter of 1801-2. Other than these references, only the information given by Floyd gives any additional details about his life.

Floyd's Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pa.[5] refers to Mathias as "Tyson" Persing, pg.175. This name was probably derived from a recollection of "Teis" Persing by an informant consulted at the time of Floyd's sketch gathering. Nicknames seem to have been used commonly in the Persing family. The author can recall his father referring to his uncles as Brose (Ambrose) Mann (Emmanuel S.) and Ham (Hamilton S.). "Teis" therefore is easily derived from a variant spelling of the name Mathias. Not much information is available from Northumberland County records, most likely because Mathias died in 1826, second of the immigrant's children to pass on before the death of their aged father in 1829. An inventory[9] of Mathias' estate was recorded in Book 2 at the Sunbury courthouse on 21Dec1826. Some other records are on file in the Sunbury courthouse indicating acquisitions of land from John Miller (1801) and from his brother William and John Myer (1804). "Floyd" states that he followed farming in Shamokin Township, died at his home and is buried at St. Peters Blue Church. His

gravesite has not been located but a family record[2-1] says that he is buried with his brother William Jr.

Mathias and Catherine (Katie Baker) had five daughters and three or four sons. Maria b. ca. 1789 married Solomon Hummel. Their children were Solomon, m. Hester Adams, William m. Lydia _____, Jonas m. Elizabeth Cherry. Maria died 10Feb1861 and is buried at the Blue Church. Lena b. 1793 married Adam Dimmick b. 19Oct1794. Elizabeth b. 01Aug1795 married David Camp (Cromp). She died 31Dec1871 and is buried at the Blue Church. Margaret b. ca. 1797 married John Goss. Rebecca b. 04Feb1801 married William Scholl. Some records indicate she might also have been married to John Hummel and to John Sheib at some points in her life. William H. b. 18Nov1792 first married Nancy Pitner b. 17Nov1794 d/o Capt. Lambert Pitner. All of William H.'s children were born to Nancy. She d. 26Aug1836 and is buried at the Old Presbyterian cemetery at Deibler's Station probably next to her father where a marker N appears. After Nancy's death William H. married Mary Goss b. 22Jan1795, d. 04Jun1875. William H. d. 18Jan1881. His gravesite has not been identified with any certainty. John was b. 06Dec1794 at or near Lower Harmony, N.J. He was baptized on 02Feb1795 at the German Reformed Church in Easton, Pa. under the name John PASSINGER. Certain obscure records in Northumberland County indicate that he might have been the same person as the Miller referred to in Floyd's "Annals" which is why there is some doubt about the number of sons of Mathias. Jacob was born 03SEP1799 and married Elizabeth Shipe.

JACOB PERSING (21) son of Mathias was born 03Sep1799 at Irish Valley and spent his early life on the family farm[5]. He took up the shoemaking trade and worked in Danville and Riverside. He married Elizabeth Shipe b. 09Apr1805 d. 16May1883. Their children were Elizabeth b. 31May1821, David b. ca. 1825, Eli b. 06Dec1830, Illif b. ca. 1831 (or possibly 1838), Israel b. May 1844 lived in Danville, Riley b. 18Nov1833 lived in Kansas and was a Civil War Veteran, Susanna b. 19Feb1829, and Matilda b. ca. 1843. Jacob died at Sunbury, Pa. on 06Jun1883 and is buried at St. Peter's (Blue) Church with his wife Elizabeth.

DAVID PERSING (211) son of Jacob was born ca. 1824 at Irish Valley and followed his father's trade as a shoemaker[5]. He moved to Shamokin in its early days, lived in Coal Township with Ben Hertzler in 1850 and later moved to Locust Gap where he was engaged in lumbering. Following, he relocated to Broad Top, Carbon Twp., Huntingdon Co. where he was associated for a time with Krieger and Ammerman in coal mining. He then engaged in lumbering in Clearfield County and lived at Houtzdale in retirement. According to "Floyd" he was married three times but his last wife is not named. He first married Mary Jane Krieger b. 27Mar1832. They had three children; Celestial married _____ McLaughlin, George, and Alfred J. b. 09Feb1856, d. 10Apr1932. Mary Jane d. 17Mar18??, possibly 1856 although some cemetery records indicate 1866 and/or 1876. 1856 seems to be the most

likely since Andrew C. was born to David's second wife Isabelle Clark in Apr 1866. Also we know that Alfred J. b. 09Feb1856 was raised by his uncle Eli. David and Isabelle had two children, Andrew C. b. Apr1866 who married Amelia Wills[2-81] b. Sep 1861 and Laura who married Isaac Goss.

ALFRED J. PERSING (2111) was born 06Feb1856 at Locust Gap, Pa.[5]. He was raised by his uncle Eli at Shamrock Station, Ralpho (Shamokin) Township and was educated in the public schools. His early years were spent on his uncle's farm, but he was interested in other things. He first learned the trade of a wheelwright and worked at it for twenty years. In 1877, he went to Kansas, probably to his uncle Riley's home, but soon returned to Northumberland County where he next engaged in lumbering for about five years. On 18Oct1899 he was appointed postmaster at Elysburg, a position which he occupied until 27Jul1914. In the 1900 U.S. Census he is listed as a wheelwright, owning a buggy shop in Elysburg. He is probably the "Alley" Persing referred to in Ralpho Township: History, Heritage and Hearsay[8]. In conjunction with his job as postmaster, he operated a stationery store. Living at the time Floyd's "Annals" were being written, he was reported to be "an esteemed citizen, deserving the confidence of his fellow men". He married Clara Crowl, d/o Jackson Crowl of Ralpho Township. She bore him two children, Howard C., a printer, b. Oct 1877 and Irene N. b. Jan 1892, married Frank Yocum b. 11Nov1894. Alfred and Clara were members of St. Jacobs (Reeds) Reformed Church. He died 10Apr1932 followed by his wife Clara in 1936. They are buried at Reeds Church.

LEO PERSING (21121) was born 27Nov1903 at Houtzdale, Pa. and died 25Feb1991 at Akron, OH where he had lived for about 71 years. He worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. from 1920 to 1969. He is buried in the Chestnut Hill cemetery.

ISRAEL A. PERSING (214) was born 10May1844 in Rush Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. (Some newspaper articles say Montour Co. which is the location of Danville.) It is likely though that he was born on the same farm as his brother Riley. His early life was spent farming. He married Mary J. (Jennie) Wallize d/o Michael H. and Harriet on 30Dec1869 and settled in Danville, Pa. at 13 E. Center St. He owned and operated grocery stores at 75 and 348 Mill St. where he sold fresh produce and other general store items. He insisted on first quality produce for his customers, having grown up on a farm. He was a member of Shiloh Reformed Church where records show him attending as early as 1861. He continued with his wife until about 1902 when he and Jennie transferred to the Grove Presbyterian Church. Jennie had been a member of the latter church from 1858 until she joined her husband's church in March 1874. Jennie died 08May1920 and Israel relocated to Norton, Va. where he lived with his daughter Charlotte Kemp wife of William W. Kemp. The Kemps had lived adjacent to the Persings in Danville, Pa. He died at Norton, Va.

on 27Nov1931 and is buried with his wife at Fairview Cemetery in Danville.

CHARLOTTE FRANCES PERSING KEMP (2140) was born 26Jan1872 at Danville, Pa. d/o Israel A. and Mary J. "Jennie" (Wallize). The U.S. census of 1880 indicates she had a twin brother Charles. He evidently died in childhood although he was 8 years of age at the time of the census. Charlotte was educated by private tutors and later studied piano and organ at the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. She put these skills to use as organist for the Grove and Mahoning Presbyterian Churches of Danville, Pa. She married William W. Kemp 26Mar1902. William was a neighbor of the Persings in Danville. They moved to Norton, Va. where William was employed by the Wise Coal and Coke Co. The couple's three children were born at Dorchester. They later built a home in Norton, Va. and were active in the Norton Presbyterian Church. Will also served as a member of the school board and city council. Charlotte was a dignified and formal woman and even addressed her old friends as Mr., Mrs., or Miss unless she had known them from childhood. After her husband's death in 1943 Charlotte lived with her daughter Isabel in Atlanta until her death 20Jan960. She is buried with her husband and son Frederick at the Highland Cemetery in Norton. Her granddaughter, Charlotte Gambill Hoyer of Houston, Texas, furnished most of this sketch.

RILEY PERSING (215) was born 18Nov1833 on a farm in Rush Twp., near Danville, Northumberland Co., Pa.[2-13]. He lived there until 1862 when he joined the Penna. Militia. The following text of an article taken from The Topeka Daily Capital[22] dated 10Jun1928 gives details of his life.

For almost 95 years the clear eye and intelligent brain of Riley Persing have observed the coming and going of his fellow men and women, and today the erect form, firm step and soldierly carriage have more the appearance of a man of 60 than of one who was born while this great state was known only as part of the "Great American Desert". Riley Persing was born on a farm near Danville, Pa., November 18, 1833, his father, Jacob Persing, coming from England (auth: England is incorrect, see Jacob (21)) and his mother, Elizabeth (Shipe) Persing, being a native of Germany. The meager opportunities for an education in those days were (illegible) sought by this boy and (secured?) by an effort unknown to the youth of the present generation.

In the fall of 1862 he joined Company H, 172nd regiment of militia, for the 90-day service which at that time was thought to be plenty of time to put down the rebellion; but when on the first day of August, 1863, having served out his time and being mustered out the war was apparently no nearer an end than when he entered the service; so after a short visit at home with his family, he again enlisted on February 26, 1864, in Company F, 12th regiment of cavalry "for the duration of the war".

As corporal of this company he participated in the battle of Harpers Ferry, and was under orders to proceed to Bull Run, but a part of the regiment, including his company, was left to guard against the depredations of the "bushwhackers" and thus he was engaged until finally mustered out of the service on the 20th of July, 1865 at Winchester, Va.

After the war Persing returned to his farm labors at his old home for a number of years, but being imbued with the spirit of adventure and hearing such wonderful stories of the Western country, he gathered his family about him and by boat and rail traveled toward the setting sun, arriving at Atchison in the fall of 1872.

After a few months employment on a farm he bargained for an "eighty" in the Sugar Bowl district a few miles north of Valley Falls, to which he moved in the spring of 1873, took up his residence as a citizen of Jefferson county, and since the death of his wife, which occurred in 1881, he has been a resident of Valley Falls, making his home with his daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Ed Lewis.

Always of an active disposition he still insists on working every day; has about the finest garden in town, cares for a flock of chickens, mows the lawn and persists in sawing wood as in the old days, which he says accounts for the fact that he always has a good appetite, sleeps like a child and never has occasion to call for a physician's services.

In politics Persing has always been a Republican, tho never aspiring to office; in religion, a Methodist, and belongs to no order save the Grand Army of the Republic. At the observance of Memorial Day here, the speaker, Dr. Burris Jenkins, paid a tribute to the character of this fine citizen. At the G.A.R. encampment at Topeka, a few weeks ago, he was the oldest member registered by several years, marched down Kansas avenue the straightest, quickest stepping old boy in the line.

And so this fine old defender of his nation in her hour of peril calmly waits the sound of taps as he contentedly smokes his pipe, and meditates over the almost unbelievable advancement in every line of human endeavor during his lifetime by the greatest nation of all time -- to which he is proud to own allegiance.

Mr. Persing was married in 1859 to Amanda Yordy, and to this union were born 12 children, nine of whom are now living --the oldest James Persing, age 68, residing in Topeka; Irving at Corning; Frank at Clyde; Sam and William at Valley Falls; Mrs. Cora Owens, at Winchester; Mrs. Savannah Longton, at Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mrs. Florence Seibles and Mrs. Sarah Lewis at Valley Falls. Mrs. Persing died near Valley Falls in 1881.

Obituary of Riley Persing[64-12]

Riley Persing was born in Shamokin, Pa., November 18, 1833, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Lewis, in Valley Falls, Kansas, December 13, 1929, aged 96 years and 28 days.

He was married to Amanda Yordy December 29, 1859. Thirteen children came to bless this happy union nine of whom survive, Ulysses of Topeka; Mrs. Cora Owen of Winchester; Mrs. Savannah Longton of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Frank of Clyde, Kansas; Mrs Florence Seible (of) Irwin; William, Sam and Sarah Lewis of Valley Falls.

He was a veteran of the Civil war serving the greater part of the four years and was a member of the Captain L. Stafford G.A.R. Post No. 225. He served in the Cavalry and received an honorable discharge at the close of the war.

He came to Valley Falls in 1879 following various occupations farming, and also did some work as a railroad man. In his later life he took pride in looking after lawns and keeping them in such splendid condition that he was in great demand, over-taxing his strength in an effort to answer all the calls that came.

He, with his wife, united with the Methodist church in early life in Pennsylvania. His wife died July (illegible), 1881, and for over forty eight years this good man tread the lonely path, living with his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Lewis, in Valley Falls. His children "rise up and call him Blessed". He was a home loving man and every evening was always found at home. He leaves his nine children, seventeen great grandchildren, and one brother of Norton, Va., to mourn his loss. For while he had lived far beyond the average life he had never been ill until his last birthday and since that day his health had steadily declined until he fell asleep December 13 at 1 o'clock. He lived in the world's greatest period of history. He had seen its joys and sorrows. He had shared its joys and victories. He impressed his spirit especially on those who were near and dear. They say of him "he was a good man". The funeral was held Sunday afternoon from the Methodist church, Dr. O.L. Sample, the pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. Hammers of the Baptist church. Hymns were sung by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Legler, Mrs. Lou Hauck and Milton Schindler at the pipe organ. The local American Legion took charge of the services at the grave. Interment was made in the Rose Hill cemetery by the side of his wife.

CARD OF THANKS- We desire to express our appreciation for the many kind acts and words of sympathy extended us during our recent bereavement--especially do we thank the American Legion boys; and for the beautiful floral offerings.

The Children

The author of this history can add nothing to this tribute.

The information was furnished by Mrs. Dorothy Persing, wife of Edward T. (21512), along with a list of some of his descendants. They appear in the tree of the descendants of Mathias (2).

WILLIAM H. PERSING (22) son of Mathias was born 18Nov1792 at or near Lower Harmony, Sussex Co. (now Warren Co.), N.J. About 1796 he and his parents moved to Northumberland Co., Pa. where his father Mathias first appears in local tax records for that year, owning a farm adjoining Irish Creek. William grew up on the farm and married Nancy Pitner daughter of Captain Lambert Pitner, a Revolutionary War veteran. They had seven daughters and six sons before Nancy died in 1836, two years after her last child was born. She is probably buried near her father at the Old Presbyterian Cemetery at Deibler's Station. The cemetery is in deplorable condition and graves are hard, if not impossible to locate. The family of Captain Pitner has placed a modern marker at his grave and to the left of it is a stone; engraved N. It is this site that could be the grave of Nancy. Possibly by 1840 William married Maria Goss and lived in Upper Augusta Township at his death in 1881. A will is recorded in Northumberland Co. courthouse, Will Book 7, Page 220, filed on 06Aug1881. He is buried at the Blue Church with his wife Maria who died in 1875.

CALEB F. PERSING (222) was born 18Nov1818 son of William H. and Nancy (Pitner) Persing. His mother died in 1836. He does not appear to be living with his father in 1840 but it is difficult to identify specific individuals in the 1840 census because only heads of family are named and only age and sex identify the rest. This census enumerates seven different Persing families living on the same property, making it even more difficult to identify children. In 1860, he is listed living in Shamokin Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. with his wife Susanna (Moyer) and son Caleb K. His occupation is that of a miller. He was named a deacon of the Summit Baptist Church 19Jan1865 according to Bell's History of Northumberland Co., Pa.[6]. Bell's "History" also contains a record of a Caleb, Burgess of Danville from 1887-1891 who could be Caleb K., son of Caleb F. In 1888, at the age of 70, Caleb and his wife moved to Spring Grove, Surrey Co., Va. They seem to have been closely associated with the Freeman Sober family in making this move. Caleb's wife, Susan was a sister of Freeman's wife, Mahala and they lived adjacent to each other in Virginia. Caleb's land consisted of 521 acres and was known as Oak Grove. A descendant of Mahala (Moyer) Sober, E. Hope Conrad of Germansville, Pa. has furnished much of this information in connection with her genealogical work on the Sober family. Caleb wrote a will dated 11Feb1902 in which he made bequests to Kerlin children. The Kerlin children are possibly related to Susan (Moyer) Persing or to Caleb's sister, Catherine (220) who may have been the wife of J. W. Kerlin. I learned also from Hope that Caleb's home in Va. burned to the ground after he wrote his will, making a significant change to the value of the estate. Hope's father who, was 5 at the time, watched it burn. The land evidently contained valuable timber

for a codicil to Caleb's will states that none was to be sold separately. He also left funds for the upkeep of the Deibler Station Presbyterian and St. Peters (Blue) church cemeteries and to the Irish Valley M. E. church for the support of the gospel. He left his brothers Joseph and Morris $1.00 each, the heirs of each deceased sister $1.00 each and his brother Lambert $150.00. Lambert's wife Lydia probably received the latter bequest as Lambert died on 11Sep1902. Caleb seems to have died a short time later as his will was probated 24Feb1903. Additional information is provided in Hope Conrad's letter to the author.

MORRIS S. PERSING (224) was born 15Jan1832[2-16] one of twin sons born to William H. and Nancy (Pitner) Persing. At the time, the family lived at Paxinos in Shamokin Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. His mother, Nancy died in 1836 and his father later married Maria Goss. Morris married Amanda L. Alexander on 08Jan1853. He was by occupation, a miller before his entry into the army. He moved with his family by June 1857 to the vicinity of Attica, Fountain Co., Indiana where daughter Anna M. was born on the 28th of that month. Morris enlisted on 14Jun1861 in the Indiana Volunteers and was assigned to Co. A, 15th Regiment[60]. His wife apparently returned to Northumberland Co., Pa. where she bore Elmer Ellsworth on 03Oct1861. In January 1862 Morris was sent home to Northumberland Co. on 20 days sick leave. When he recovered he was unable to rejoin his Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers and was permitted to join Co. F, 56th Penna. Volunteers instead on 02Jun1862. He fought at Antietam and afterward was detached by general order and assigned to Battery L, 1st N.Y. Lt. Artillery. In December of 1863, he developed rheumatism and "piles" for which he was treated by the regimental surgeon in Brigade Artillery, 1st Corps Field Hospital, Army of the Potomac. He was sent to Lincoln Hospital in Washington in April of 1864 and left there in August. He was honorably discharged in Oct. 1864 at Indianapolis, Indiana. He applied for and received a disability pension for these physical conditions[58~1].

After the war, Morris lived in Pennsylvania until 1892 except for a possible time in West Virginia in 1874 where daughter Lillie Bell was born. He had returned to Pennsylvania by 1880 and was living in Upper Augusta Twp. at census time. In 1892 the family moved to Washington, D.C. where he was employed as a civilian machinist for the U.S. Navy. After his first wife died on 10Dec1906 in Washington, he married his housekeeper, Amanda McDonald (a widow). They were married on 28Mar1907 at Manistee, Michigan which may have been her hometown, although they were living in Washington, D.C. at the time. He retired about 1913 and continued to reside in Washington. After his second wife died in May 1916, he went to live with his daughter, Alida Stoker in or near Stella, N.Y. He died there on 23Dec1917. He is buried at Pomfret Manor cemetery in Sunbury, Pa. with his first wife.

ELMER E. PERSING (2241) was born 03Oct1861 at Paxinos, Shamokin Twp., Northumberland Co., Pa. He married Elizabeth Deborah Allen (born 03Aug1866) at Northumberland, Pa. on 17Feb1885. They had two sons and three daughters who are listed in the tree of the descendants of Mathias (2). One of these daughters was Magnolia K. who married James A. Kirkpatrick, father-in-law of Elizabeth R. (Moser) Kirkpatrick who has provided much of the information for this sketch and the family of Morris (224). About 1898 Elmer and his family relocated to Washington, D.C. where he and his father, Morris, were employed as machinists for the U.S. Navy. While at work he was injured on the job by a flying metal chip and died from an infection within 10 days on 22Mar1922. He was buried at Cedar Hill cemetery in Washington, D.C. Elizabeth (Allen) Persing died 27Apr1929 at Northumberland, Pa. and is buried at Riverview cemetery.

LAMBERT PITNER PERSING (226), son of William H. and Nancy (Pitner) was born 15Mar1834 in Northumberland Co., Pa. His mother was a daughter of Captain Lambert Pitner, Bucks County Militia, and a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Nancy died in 1836 when Lambert was only two years old. It appears that he lived with his brother John (221) for some of his childhood years as he is listed living with a Woliver family in the 1850 census. John Persing's wife was Hester Woliver who may have returned home when John died in 1847. In 1856 Lambert married Lydia Ann Kanouse daughter of Aberham and Elizabeth Kanouse of Columbia County, Pa. They resided at Danville, Pa. in Montour Co. from at least 1860 to 1869 when the family relocated to the village of Nevada, Steuben Co., Indiana. They also lived for a time at Three Rivers, Michigan but returned to Indiana, settling at Jamestown in Steuben Co. At Jamestown, Lambert and his wife Lydia organized a Congregational Church in an old schoolhouse, later seeing a new building established. Lydia became president of its Ladies Aid Society through which a major part of the church debt was retired. Lambert died on 11Sep1902. In 1908 Lydia relocated to Sturgis, Mich. where she lived with her son, Pardoe until she died in 1917.

Some Public Records of **MATHIAS PERSING (2)** and His Descendants

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
2	Mathias	Ni,Nd4	Mathias PASSINGER and Catherine, son John b 06Dec1794, bp 02Feb1795 Sponsors John Yeager and Catherina (see pg 133)
		Nd3,4	Deacon at Greenwich 1788
		Nh	Pgs 272,279 N.J. Militia
		Ng,Nm3	II Regiment, N.J. Militia, Per-son'
		5	Family of William (*), pg 175 named "Tyson" from nickname "Teis"
		6	Pg 158, transported first coal stoves for Sunbury courthouse from Reading
		9-3	Book S115, deed to John Wolverton lists occupation as yeoman (farmer)
		9-1	Taxed property 1796 cabin 1798 cabin, 1799 200 acres along waters of Irish Creek, 1802 200 acres and log cabin, 1805 same, 1820 223 acres along Irish Creek
		9-2	Book 2, pg 522
2B	Rebecca	11-1	b 04Feb1801, d 25Dec1875, Rebecca may have been married to John Hummel and John Sheib
20	Elizabeth	11-1	m David Cromp
21	Jacob	11-1	b 03Sep1799, d 06Jun1883 Eliz. b 09Apr1805, d. 16May1883
21A	Susanna	11-1	bp 19Mar1829
		30	Pg 228 m 12Dec1854 to Jos. Goblick (Garverick)
2111	Alfred J	8	Pgs 140,169 - buggy and wheelwright shop 2nd flr of William Sevenson's blacksmith shop
		8	Pg 56 Postmaster Elysburg 1899-1914
21110	Irene N. (Yocum)	8	Pg 102 First tel. opr. Elysburg
21111	Howard C	9-2	Book 15, Pg 302 filed 25Nov1923
211110	Arlene	8	Pg 102 part owner of bldg housing first telephone exchange
21121	Leo	64-11	Obituary 26Feb1991

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
212	Eli	9-2	Book 9, Pg 299 filed 13Apr1901
212D	Cecelia C.	11-1	d/o Eli (Reeds Station) m 22Jul1883 W. Francis Adams.
w/o2122	Mary w/o Calvin	8	Pg 135 d/o John & Mary Ellen (Swank) Krick
21321	Walter C.	8	Pg 170 Owner & operator potato chip plant, Elysburg
21323	Earl	8	" " "
213212	Rudy J.	8	Pg 69 Supt. Municipal Auth. Elysburg 1977
21322	Chester L	2-12	Headmaster Western Military Acdmy. Lt.Col.,Author of books on foreign cultures.
w/o21322	Alma S.P. (Stack/Peace)	2-12	Born Dallas, TX, Dean of Women WMA A.B. Baylor 1922, M.A. Northwestern 1928, Spanish instr. WMA 1955
215	Reily/Riley	11-1	bp 18Nov1833
		64-12	Biographical article 10Jun1928
		60	Military pension
		64-8	m Amanda Yordy 13Dec1859, Rush Twp
		64-12	GAR Co. H, 172nd Reg, Penna Militia
		26	GAR Co. F, 113th Reg, Penna Vol Inf
		26	GAR Co. F, 12th Reg, Cavalry
216332	Harry V	64-16	Obituary 1990
2164	Robert P	11-26	b 22May1877, mother Harriet A.
22	William H	11-1	Sponsor at bp of Sarah Dimmig 20 ? 1839 and of Elizabeth Goss 20Aug1840 William d 18Jan1881
		9-1	1829
		9-2	Heir, son Mathias Will Book 7, Pg 220 filed 06Aug1881
w/o22	Nancy	49	d/o Capt. Lambert Pitner, 7th Co., Bucks Co. Militia. and Nmbd County Justice of the Peace, pg 1353
220?	Catherine	28	m to Isaac Moll

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
221	John	-	School Childrens Collection Penna. State Library Card File b 20Dec1814,d 05Aug1847 m Hester Woliver
22B	Margaret	30	Pg 106 m 08Jan1844 to John Newman
22D	Eleanor	6	Pg 1169 married Andrew Gonsor s/o Samuel and Catherine (Long) Gonsor, d/o William Persing of Upper Aug.Twp. m/a M.E. Church
222	Caleb	6	Pg 732 Deacon Summit Baptist Church 19Jan1865
222?	Caleb F	2-81	Will 11Feb1902 Surry Co., Va. Pchsd land adj. to Freeman W. Sober Spring Grove, Surry Co., Va. 1888
224	Morris	58-1 58-2 60	Pension Certificate 609.681 GAR Co. A, 15th Indiana Vol Inf GAR Co. K, 56th Penna Vol Inf
2242	Abraham G	11-26	m Julia Page 23Sep1890
22420	Helen	11-27	b 27Feb1895
22420	Mary	11-27	m 01Jul1921 to Frank Yocum
22425	Harry R	11-27	b 08Jul1893, d 04Aug1894
226	Lambert P	9-2	Purchase of cemetery lot 1869
w/o226	Lydia	19-2	Sale of cemetery lot 1907
2262	William H	75	m Emma Roat, 1885, Michigan
2266	Samuel Pardoe	75	m Harriet Mae Srouffe
24	John	9-2 Ni,Nd4	Book 3, Pg 155, 15Sep1829 b 06Dec1794,bp 02Feb1795 s/o Mathias and Catherine Passinger, godparents John and Catherine (A) Yeager

Records of additional descendants of Mathias (2) may be found in reference sources pertaining to Northunberland County, Penna. and in other states named in the genealogy of Mathias (2) in this chapter.

CHAPTER 8

JACOB PERSON (3) AND SOME DESCENDANTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

JACOB PERSON (3), third in order of birth of the sons of William and Barbara Persing (Person) was born, probably in New Jersey, about 1767. This date has been estimated from information in the U.S. Census of 1850 which shows his age as 83. The earliest New Jersey record[Nh] that the author has located to date is a listing of Jacob in the New Jersey Militia in 1793 along with brothers William and Mathias. Jacob and Mathias appear on these lists as Pierson under Grannage (Greenwich) Township, Sussex Co., listing #'s 271 and 272. William appears as Person, #216. Jacob next appears in the U.S. Census for New Jersey in 1830 where he and his sons William and John are listed as PERSING in Greenwich Township. His son Jeremy is listed in Oxford Township as PERSON. The next local record of him is in 1834. This record[Nd1] informs us that on 02Aug1834 certain charges were brought against him by his church and that he defended himself in trial before the Elders of the Harmony Presbyterian Church until October 5, 1835 when he was removed from membership. This church's records begin in 1832 although it was formed in 1807. The removal from membership does give evidence that he was member and since he was not added after 1832 it is possible that he was a charter member of the church. There are six handwritten pages of testimony given in the trial but they contain no useful information in developing a history of this branch of the Persing/Person family. Jacob is listed in the census for 1840 and 1850 as Jacob PERSON indicating that he reverted to the surname PERSON after the 1830 census. In the 1840 census he and his sons William and John were living in Harmony Township which was subdivided from Greenwich and Oxford in 1839. He was occupied as a farmer, blacksmith, and later in life was listed in the U.S. Census as a "speculator". This may have had to do with lands inherited from his father. Quite a few deeds[Ns] at the Sussex County Courthouse in Newton cover transactions between Jacob, his parents and other parties. He died in September 1854 but it is not known where he is buried. His will[Na] dated 15May1850 and recorded at Belvidere on 05Oct1854, is on file at Trenton. Most of the information that I have gathered on Jacob has been obtained from the will[Na] of his father, William, from his own will and from a descendant, Howard R. Person (35521) of Roanoke, Virginia. Howard has provided photocopies of a family bible[Ne] listing Jacob and his descendants through son Richard. Jacob's parents are not listed in this bible record. The Rosebury Inscriptions[Nc] taken from Warren County, New Jersey cemeteries also yield some vital statistics on the PERSONs although they contain many PERSON listings which are of uncertain relationship. A rationale of the relationship of Jacob Person to William and Barbara Persing is covered thoroughly in

the account of William Persing (*) of Greenwich, New Jersey. Howard Person of Roanoke is convinced that this is a correct determination and that it resolves a mystery, which has puzzled his family for years in that they were unable to trace the PERSONs back any farther than Jacob. Not knowing that the name Persing was an alternate family surname, he was unable to make any progress until this writer informed him of the findings in the will of William (*). Much remains to be uncovered about the PERSING/PERSON presence in New Jersey.

A map of Greenwich Township cal850[Nz] shows a number of properties occupied by PERSONS, including J., P. and W. Person. The first two are located in the area of what is now the Harkers Hollow Country Club. There are two locations along the Lopatcong Creek in the same vicinity marked G Mill. (The converted clover mill in Snell's history and the mill built by Jacob per his father's will?). In the fall of 1988 I was told that the foundation of an old gristmill lies on the west side of highway 519 due to a straightening of the road subsequent to the ca 1850 map. This mill is most likely one of the two mentioned in Snell's history. A question as yet unanswered is: Is this mill the one built by William Persing (Godfrey?) or by Jacob with a loan from his father as mentioned in William (*)'s will?

RICHARD PERSON (35) was born 08Jul1807 probably at Lower Harmony, Sussex (now Warren Co.), N.J. He was the son of Jacob and (Mary?) Person and probably grew up on his father's farm. He married Electa Colver of Morris Co. on 28JUL1833. They had four children, Sally, Lewis, Mary, and Richard Henry. Electa died ca1855 and Richard remarried to Mary Elizabeth Stucker. They had three children, Jacob, who died in infancy and is buried with his parents at St. Johns Lutheran (Straw) Church, Charles S. and John R.B. In 1857 he held a license as an exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a member of the Harmony Guards, 2nd Battalion, 1st regiment, Warren Brigade and held the rank of Captain in 1861. Probably from this military rank, he became known as "Captain Dickie". He died 12Jan1896 and is buried with his second wife at the "Straw" church.

LEWIS Z. PERSON (351), son of Richard and Electa Person was born 12Jun1838. His name appears in a family bible[Ne1] held by Ethel Person Hoppock (355A). Little is known of his early life. The information following has been extracted from The Search[Nt] by Howard Person (35521) of Roanoke, Va.

Lewis was a blacksmith by trade when he enlisted in the United States Army for three years on 04Aug1862 at Washington, N.J. He is noted in the enlistment record to have been 5'8" tall, with light eyes, hair and complexion. He was enrolled in the 15th Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers on the 11th of August and stationed at Camp Fair Oaks in Flemington. The regiment left New Jersey on the 27th of August and first engaged the Confederacy at Fredericksburg in December.

Military records of Lewis reveal a confusion in the spelling of his name. In various records he appears as Lewis Z. Person, Levi O. Person, Lewis O. Pearson, Lewis O. Pierson and Levi O. Pierson. He probably participated in the Fredericksburg campaign in December 1862. Following the withdrawal of Union forces, Lewis and others of his regiment wintered at White Oak Church, Va. During the late winter, there was an outbreak of typhoid fever and Lewis was one of its victims. He died 04Mar1863. Since he is not buried at the National Cemetery at Fredericksburg it is thought that he and others of the regiment's typhoid victims are buried in a common grave at White Oak Church. A depression on the grounds of the Primitive Methodist Church seems to be the likeliest site. He may have been the first of the descendants of William Persing (Person) to have died in the service of his country.

JOHN R. BOUNS PERSON (355) was born 09Feb1869, son of Richard and Mary (Stucker) Person. He married Edith L. Winter who lived on a farm between Stewartsville and New Village, N.J. They were "share" farmers, and operated farms at various places in Warren and Hunterdon counties. Their farm in Hunterdon County was located along the Musconetcong River and is now crossed by Conrail tracks which were in times past part of the Lehigh Valley and Jersey Central Railroads. Interstate Route 78 also crosses this farmland. The farm, owned by the Tinsman family, was operated as a dairy farm and for cash crops. John and Edith had six children, Howard S. who never married and helped with the farming, Clarence E., J Russel, Ethel T., Verna M. and Helen G. Howard was active in farm affairs and also kept records of the flow and height of the Musconetcong for the State of New Jersey. A road bordering the farm is named Person Road probably in recognition of the work performed by Howard. Russel also became a share farmer; having worked farms at the intersection of Routes 519 and 57 and lastly near Harkers Hollow Country Club. He died 11Nov1935 and is buried in the Bloomsbury Cemetery.

CLARENCE E. PERSON (3552), son of John R.B. and Edith (Winter) Person was born 16Jan1898 probably on one of the farms operated by his parents. He left the farm as a young man because of his interest in mechanics. The advent of the automobile led him to own and operate a garage at Broadway, N.J. where he lived with his wife, Jessie McCloud Bell. In 1923 they moved to Phillipsburg where he worked as an independent repairman during the Great Depression and as service manager for the Buick Agency. At the start of World War II, he went to work for Ingersoll Rand in the Compressor and Diesel Engine Depts. After the death of his wife in 1960, he married Beatrice Ward. When she too died in 1963, he moved to Manchester, CT to live with son Howard. He died in 1971 of "Lou Gehrig's Disease" and is buried at Bloomsbury, NJ.

ETHEL PERSON HOPPOCK (355A)
VERNA PERSON DONOVAN BIBLEHEIMER (355B)
HELEN PERSON UPDYKER (355C)

The daughters of John R.B. and Edith Person attended elementary school in Bloomsbury, N.J. and high school in Phillipsburg. After the death of her husband in 1953, Ethel worked for the Bethlehem Twp., N.J. school system, serving for many years as secretary to the School Board. In honor of her service the West Portal Junior Hiqh School was renamed the Ethel Hoppock Middle School. Verna worked as a telephone operator and supervisor for the Bell Telephone Co. in Easton, Pa. After her marriage, she moved to Sun City, FL. Helen operated a beauty salon in Washington, N.J. and after the death of her parents, she and her husband relocated to her homestead to help brother Howard. After the farm was sold, they moved to a property next to sister Ethel in West Portal where they remained until their deaths.

HOWARD R PERSON (35521) was born at Broadway, N.J. on 09Feb1921. He attended the Phillipsburg public schools. In his teen years he worked on his grandfather Person's farm and thought he might become a career farmer. But instead he went to work for the Ingersoll Rand Co. in 1940. In 1941 he went to work in the War Department at Washington as a civilian employee. Ever looking for a way to become involved with aviation, he soon found Civil Service work as an instrumentation inspector at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

He married Myrtle I. Exley, whom he had met at a church function, on 11Apr1943 while working as a government inspector at the Bendix Instrument Co. in Philadelphia. In 1945 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and became a maintenance officer for a Navy SB2C (Helldiver) aircraft squadron. He was discharged from the service on 04Dec1945 at San Diego, CA. After leaving the Navy, he returned to work for the Navy Department at the Westinghouse Electric Co. in the development of a jet engine using confiscated designs of the German Bavarian Motor Works. When this work was transferred to Pratt and Whitney, he took a transfer to East Hartford, CT where he was responsible for quality control in the manufacture, assembly and testing of all Pratt and Whitney engines built for the Air Force and Navy. In 1962 he undertook heavy responsibilities in the Engineering Dept. of the Naval Plant Representative Office of the U.S. Navy.

Retiring from the Navy Department in 1975 after a serious heart attack and by-pass surgery, he and his wife moved to Roanoke, Va. where he took up periodic contract work in the aerospace field. He also was active in church affairs. After a second heart attack and additional by-pass surgery he decided to retire permanently.

Myrtle (Exley) Person was a church organist when she met Howard. She was an active homemaker, wife and mother and

remained active in her church, teaching in Sunday School, playing the organ, directing the choir, etc. She also was employed as a secretary at the same time. In Roanoke, Howard and Myrtle were still active in 1995 as hospital volunteer workers. They are parents of three sons and five or more grandchildren.

The author and his wife have spent some enjoyable days with Howard and Myrtle at Roanoke. They are cousins that the entire Persing/Person clan can be proud of. And their interest in family life has resulted in their being an almost singular source for the history and genealogy of the descendants of Jacob Person (3) in this volume. It was with much sorrow that I learned that Myrtle passed away on 13Jul1998.

RICHARD E. PERSON (35522) was born 15Aug1929 at Phillipsburg, N.J. He attended the local schools and on graduation joined the U.S. Air Force. He participated in the Berlin Airlift as a maintenance mechanic. As a result of his performance there, he was offered employment by Pratt and Whitney if he chose not to re-enlist in the Air Force. He accepted this offer and worked for Pratt and Whitney in the maintenance of the corporate fleet. He is presently a supervisor in these operations and resides with his wife Kathy Spellman Person at North Windham, CT.

Richard is the father of eight children by his first wife Jeanne Lore Person. They are listed in the tree of descendants of Jacob Person (3).

Some Public Records of **JACOB PERSON (3)** and His Descendants

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
3	Jacob	Na1	Named as Jacob Person and Jacob Persing in will of father 1824
		Na2	Will of Jacob Person 1854,1855 Names sons John and Jeremiah
		Nb	Pgs 671, 676, 719 "Captain" Jacob is referred to as s/o "Godfrey" Pg 680 John Howell mills at "Person's on the mountainside"
		Nb	Pg 675 Owner of clover mill and tavern (used as a blacksmith shop)
		Nb	Pg 681 Captain Person had a mill on the same stream as Holdern's Mill
		Nd1	Session record 02Aug1834 and 05Oct1835
		Nh	Pgs 271,279 N.J. Militia
		No	Vol 12 Pg 257, Inv. of Valentine Metts, farmer of Greenwich by Jacob Person, John Smith
		Np	Pg 590 query #1495 states Jacob's wife as Mary
		Ns1	Book 2, pg 191 inv of estate of John Allshouse
		5	Pg 175 Family of William (*)
30	Charlotte	Nw1	m to George Leffler 05Jul1828
30?	Maria	Nw1	m to Peter Frutchey 1827
31?	William	Ng	War of 1812 Pvt William Person NJ083
310	Rebecca	Nd6	b 01May1825 bp 25Feb1826 d 01Jun1878 d/o William and Jane
3120	Christina	Nx	b 03Apr1856 Greenwich, d/o Wm & Lydia
w/o313	Julia	Nw2	Obituary 06Aug1900, lists children
		Nw3	" "
3131	Charles M	Nx	b 1861 Phillipsburg s/o Hugh and Julia

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
w/o3131	Elizabeth	Nw3	Obituary 10Aug1893 d at home of f/i/l Hugh
31310	Mabel	Nw2 Nw4	Obituary 04Nov1885 d/o Chas & Lizzie " Nov1885
31311	Clarence	Nn3	m Hazel Ackerman b 21Mar1889 lived Wilmington, Del b 04Dec1896 s/o Chas & Eliz
313111	David	Nn3	b 22Dec1922
31311A	Joan	Nn3	b 21Jul1920, m Willard Sweetman Jr
3132	Edgar	Nx	b 28May1864 Harmony, s/o Hugh & Julia
314	Jacob B Jr	Nw2 Nw3	Obituary 10Aug1896, native of Harmony " " , lists children, brothers and sisters
w/o 314	Eleanor	Nw1	Obit 27Oct1883 d at home of son John
3140	Mary Eliz	Nx	bp 21Feb1850
3140	Charlotte	Nx	b 11Oct1859 Franklin Twp
3142?	Ezra	Nw2	Obituary 10Oct1873
32	John	Nf Nx	m Elizabeth Prall 05May1832 m " " Oxford
322?	Jacob	Nn1 Nn2	Pg 331, Belvidere, NJ, father of Ettie Pg 858, m. 17Jan1867 to Mary Cath Rutter
w/o322	Mary Cath	Nn2 Nn2	Pg 331, mother of Ettie b 04Jul1839
322A	Louisa	Nn2	bp 25Jan1868, d 04Feb1869
322B	Ettie	Nn1	b 12Sep1869 d/o Jacob and Mary C Rutter of Belvidere, N.J. m Edward Pennock b 05Feb1861, of Pine Grove, at Chestnut Level, Pa. 03Oct1889
	Henrietta (Ettie)	Nn2	b 12Sep1869 d/o Jacob and Mary Cath (Rutter) Person
33	Jeremiah	Nf Nw1 Nx	m Margaretha DeWitt 30Jun1829 m " " 20Jun1829 m DeWitt 30Jun1829 (Pierson)

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
w/o33	Margaretha	Nj	Belvidere Cemetery "w/o Jeremiah" 21Nov1811 - 19Jan1867
331	James	Nd1	b 20Mar1832, d 01Nov1836
		Nj	A record of burial at the Lower Harmony Methodist Cemetery may be an error or indicate the body was moved later
332	William A	Nw2	b 29Jan1835, d 29Apr1877
34	Isaac	Nf	m Susan Beers 11Jan1845, Harmony m Margaret Kline 30Dec1830, Oxford
35	Richard	Nj	St James Lutheran (Straw) Church b 08Jul1807 d 12Jan1896
		Nw1	m to Electa Colver of Morris Co 28Jul1833
		Nt	Captain, Harmony Guards, 2nd Btn, 1st Reg, Warren County Brigade, New Jersey Militia, 13Aug1861
		Nq	1850 Census - blacksmith
w/o35	Electa (1)	Na3	Inventory
w/o35	Mary (2)	?	b 16May1823 d 12Mar1899
351	Lewis	Nr1, Nt	Civil War Veteran, Co H, 15th Reg, New Jersey Infantry (N.J. Volunteers), 1st Jersey Brigade, 1st Division, VI Corps d Regt Hosp 04Mar1863 of typhoid fever
351	"	Nt	Enlisted 04Aug1862, enrolled 11Aug 1862 at Camp Fair Oaks, Flemington, N.J., fought at Fredericksburg
352	Rchrd Hnry	Nx	bp 12Feb1850 Lower Harmony Methodist
3521	Russl Hnry	Nj	Lower Harmony Methodist Church b 20Nov1879 son of Richard Henry and Sarah
3523	Henry Lee	Nj	Lower Harmony Methodist Church b 16May1871 d ? May1880
353	Jacob	Nc2	Grave is adj to Richard (35) and Mary b 03Mar1862 d 09Aug1862
356	Joseph	Nd2	b 1864 Appears in same listing as Richard (35) & Mary

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
356?	Joseph C	Nw2	m 1863 to Ida M Gano 19Jun1895
36	Chrstphr S (Pierson)	Nf, Nb	m Amanda L Burnett 12Jul1845 Pg 719, leased Veranda Hotel-Washington
36 ?	Chrstphr*	Ns1	Pg 121, Re: woodlot formerly owned by Christopher Person and James Mealick, Levi Leffler, William Hiteman (6 acres)
36	Chrstphr	Ns2	Estate of Peter P Willever Property sold at "Inn of Christopher Person - Broadway"
362	Chrstphr B (Pierson)	Nx	b 08Dec1850 Harmony, s/o Chris/Amanda
363	Jms K Polk	Nx	b 05Aug1859 Harmony, s/o Chris/Amanda

*Another Christopher married to Rhoda Warne appears in LDS records. He is not thought to be of the same family.

Records of additional descendants of Jacob Person (3) may be found in Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, NJ and in the genealogy of Jacob (3) in this chapter.

CHAPTER 9

WILLIAM PERSING JR. (4) AND SOME DESCENDANTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

WILLIAM PERSING JR. (4), fourth son of William and Barbara Persing was born 23Apr1773 according to family records. However his age at death as engraved on the tombstone indicates he would have been born on 08Apr1773. The April 23 date may be that of his baptism. Another record indicates he died 19Jan1853 further complicating these statistics.

He was by far the most prolific and probably the most enterprising of the six sons of William and Barbara. He and four of his brothers left their Lower Harmony, Sussex County, New Jersey home over a span of twenty-six years (1785-1811) and settled in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. "Floyd"[5] says he "had large interests, engaging in farming, building a gristmill which he operated, and also carrying on a rope walk and distillery. He was an extensive fruit grower, the most extensive in his section, using the fruit in his distillery". Possibly he was involved in distilling with his brother John who is also said to have operated a distillery. "Floyd" continues to say, "He also made peppermint products". He was the father of seventeen children, seven by his first wife Hannah Harnet[3.1] who died in 1810 and ten by his second wife Margaret Dimmick. The earliest record[Nh] that has been found to date is a listing of him as a registrant for the New Jersey Militia in 1793. Next he is found present at the baptism[Nd-2,4] of his daughter Maria Cathrina on 25Jan1796 at Christ Reformed Church, Greenwich (now St. James Lutheran), also known as the "Straw Church". Sponsors were his parents William and Barbara PERSON, a surname used by the family in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. According to a family bible[4.1] in the family of his son Mathias, "the (William) Persings moved to Northumberland County in 1799". This is borne out by Northumberland County Tax Lists[9] which first list him in 1799. The U.S Census for 1800 places him and his brothers George and Mathias in Shamokin Township. Their surname appears as PERSON. From 1810 and onward the surname appears as PERSING with some few exceptions where the name is misspelled by census takers. In 1820 William Jr. was living at Briar Creek in newly formed Columbia County, probably at the same physical location as in 1810. He died 19Feb1853 (19Jan?) and is buried at St. Peters Blue Church "with his brother Tyson"[5] (sic). "Floyd" accounts of Mathias identify him as "Tyson" which is probably a name assumed from a nickname Teis which comes from a variant spelling or pronunciation of Mathias "Mat-teis". Since he died ca 1826, few if any who knew him were living when "Floyd" was researched.

MATHIAS PERSING (42), son of William Jr. was born 24May1800 in Northumberland County, Pa. His childhood was spent on the family farm, described in tax lists[9] as being located at Bald Hill or South Ridge. He married Hannah Cleveland on 03Apr1828. Hannah was born at Arkport, New York on 24Jan1807 d/o James Cleveland who was a descendant of Moses Cleaveland, surveyor of the Western Reserve and ancestor of Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th Presidents of the United States.

Various notations found in a family bible[4.1] give us the following information. "They established their home on the Shepherd Farm near Danville, N.Y." where they worked "on shares" until they "bought and moved onto a farm at Oak Hill, Steuben County in 1842." They then "traded this to grandpa James Cleveland for 200 acres in Sandusky County, Ohio and moved there in 1846. Lived the following winter in a log house owned by Abigail Stowe (or Stone) - Aunt Nabby. In the Spring of 1847 moved into a new frame house on the farm where they lived until 1860, having sold the house to Chester, and bought the adjoining Kernatte place of Jonathan Ames where a new house was built and where they died." This account is credited to Samuel (423) hence the reference to "grandpa" James Cleveland.

The move to Ohio is also described in detail. They "loaded their household goods, livestock, farm tools and food on a boat at Buffalo, intending to land at Sandusky. When they reached the mouth of the Sandusky Bay, they found the weather very stormy and the ship captain decided to go to Toledo, where they landed and loaded their goods on wagons drawn by horses which were brought from New York State. They started out on the Maumee Pike, which was then only an Indian trail, and continued on as far as Woodsville. Here they found the trail almost impassable and were obliged to spend two nights there. They finally reached the place where another trail from Sandusky joined it at a point where McPherson Cemetery now stands, so they turned off and went 1 1/2 miles southwest on what is now called the Green Springs Road. Here they settled on a 160-acre tract of land and built a log cabin for their home. The cabin has since been replaced by a fine brick house."

Their children are listed in the family tree of William Jr. (4)'s line. A descendant of Mathias, Dean W. Persing (42312), provided me with the above information.

SAMUEL PERSING (423), son of Mathias was born 01Apr1837 near Danville, N.Y. He was raised on the farm and moved with his family to Ohio in 1846. He was married in 1861 to Emeline Russell, born 27Jan1841 at Bellview, Ohio. They had four children, LORENA b. 08Dec1868, LOUIS M. b. 16Jan1870 m. Hattie Wickwire b. 06Oct1869, and BESSIE b. 03Jul1874 m. Joseph Neipp. Emeline Russell was a daughter Judge William Russell. Samuel and Emeline celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in 1926 at

the home of their son Louis on Buckeye Street in Clyde. A notable event that he witnessed as a boy of fourteen in those early years in Ohio was the arrival of the first train from Toledo to Clyde which stopped at his father's farm west of Clyde. He is said to have boarded the train there and rode on into Clyde.

He was a veteran of the Civil War, being attached to Company A, 72nd Ohio and is reported to have established a fine record as a soldier. He had entered the Army just shortly after his marriage. Samuel was the grandfather of Dean W. Persing of Columbus, Ohio by whom much of this sketch has been provided. The Persings were outstanding citizens of Clyde for many years. In recent times, only Mrs. RUSSELL S. (42311) Persing remains in Clyde (1985). Samuel and his sisters MARY (Bacon) and LOVINA (Lee) all died within less than two months in 1932. CLARA (Comstock) died in 1936.

DEAN W. PERSING (42312), son of Louis M. and Hattie (Wickwire) was born in Clyde, Ohio on 19Sep1904. He attended the local schools and on graduating from high school attended Michigan State University. He graduated from Michigan State in 1927. On completing his education he worked with his father and a partner in the manufacture of cutlery. His engineering skills were evident in the design of grinding eguipment for use in the making of hamburger spatulas. This was done successfully though he had been advised by a nationally known supplier of grinding stones that it couldn't be done. Although the association with his father in that enterprise ended with the Great Depression and the failure of that business, Dean, like his ancestor William Jr. (4), continued in new enterprises. In one of them, Dean was successful in developing a formula for cheese flavored popcorn. But he was unable to market his product due to the hard economic times of the Depression. Later, his invention became one of the most successful products ever distributed by a major food company.

Dean met his life long companion, Mary Mong, while at Michigan State. Their lives together took them to many places beyond their childhood homes. One of Dean's ventures involved the establishing of bookstores in colleges and universities and included a project in Chile which was shelved because of U.S. and Latin American politics.

In more recent times Dean lived in Storm Lake, Iowa where both he and Mary were heavily involved in library work at Buena Vista College. It was while living in Storm Lake, Iowa, in their 80's and still very active, that Mary took ill and passed away within a few short weeks on 02Jun1989. Dean's account of Mary's passing leaves no doubt in the author's mind that she had a pivotal influence in his life. Dean was a model of integrity and gentry who always viewed his fellow man as his equal regardless

of social or material standing. We would all do well to follow that example.

After Mary's death, Dean took up residence at Wesley Glen Retirement Center in Columbus, Ohio. He died on 07Jul1992. The author and his wife had the pleasure of meeting Dean and his sister Josephine at Wesley Glen before his death.

DANIEL PERSING (48), son of William Jr. was born ca. 1825 in Irish Valley, Northumberland Co., Pa. He resided at Selinsgrove from about 1852 until 1869 and then returned to the Shamokin area where he lived until the time of his death in 1883. He was a shoemaker and farmer in his earlier years but was employed by the Cameron Colliery lastly. He married Anna Derr d/o William and Hannah (Reed) Derr. He is buried at the Shamokin Cemetery.

A good bit of confusion exists concerning the several Daniel Persings who were born in the early 19th century and are listed in the U.S. Censuses of 1850 and onward. The author has made an attempt to properly identify them with the actual family branch in which they were born. Daniel Persing (48) is one about which there is no doubt. This is because I have interviewed a descendant who possesses a trunk containing some personal property of Daniel. The descendant is Mrs. Frederick (Fritz) Granzow of Hummelstown, Pa. The material she possesses includes bible entries which confirm the parents of Daniel (48) and his birthdate.

Some Public Records of **WILLIAM PERSING JR. (4)** and His Descendants

Linecode	Name	Source	Information
4	William	5	Pg 175 family of William (*)
		9-1	1799 First Penna record
			1802 Log house, barn, 200 acres
			1805 Farm at Bald Hill
			1811 " " " "
			1820 South Ridge 246 acres
		9-2,10	Book 4, Pg 325 filed 16Mar1853
		9-4	Died of lung inflammation
		15	Page 75 Buried 28Jan1843
		Ng,Nh	Greenwich militia
		Nm3	William (Pearson)
		Ns3	New Jersey deeds
w/o 4	Margaret(2)	11-1	Died of palsey, Text 2 Cor 5:1 b 23Aug1791
40	Hannah	30	Pg 32 m 16Apr1831 to Emmanuel Zimmerman
40	Maria Cath (Mary)	Nd3, Nd4	b 29Nov1795, bp 25Jan1796 d/o Wilhelm Person & Hannah. Sponsors Wilhelm Person and Barbara
		?	m John Haas 1821
		31	Pg 9? m 15Aug1835 to Israel Thurston at Wolf's Crossroads
40	Rebecca	11-1	b 21Dec1821, bp 24Feb1822, sponsors Rebecca Person and Johannes Hummel
40	Susanna & Margaretha	11-1	bp 02Jul1829, sponsors Solomon Krick Elizabeth Geist & parents bp by Rev Ungerer
4A	Abigail	11-1	b 11Feb1817, bp 03May1817 Sponsors Peter Dimmig & Maria Jerry
4110	Sarah	22-1	m 24Dec1881 to John C Everett of Westfield
4111	George W	22-1	m 02Jan1885 to Maria Costley of Deerfield at Knoxville, Pa
4111	George W	24-2	Burial place, marker reads Co L, 2nd Penna Cavalry
42	Mathias	3-1	Family #1288
		57	1860 Green Crk Twp, Sandusky, OH

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
42A	Elizabeth	3-1	b Danville, N.Y., Family 1288
42B	Mary	3-1	b Danville, N.Y., Family 1288
		64-13	Article - Pioneers of Clyde, Jun 1925
42C	Clarissa	3-1	b Danville, N.Y., Family 1288
		64-13	Article - Pioneers of Clyde, Jun 1925
42D	Lovina	3-1	b Danville, N.Y., Family 1288
		64-13	Article - Pioneers of Clyde, Jun 1925
42D2	Marshall Lee	3-1	Marshall Albert Foster Lee, Fam 1288
421	Henry Wm	3-1	b Danville, N.Y., Family 1288
			m 24Dec1857, Monroe City, MI
			reloc 1857 Milan City, OH, school principal, druggist
		57	Centralia, Marion Co, IL - pharmacist
		59	1st Lt. Ohio Infantry 16Oct1861
			Capt 06Jun1863, Capt "aqm" vols
			03Jul1863, must'd out 13Mar1866
			Died 12Jun1870
4210	Carrie	3-1	b Monroe City, d Des Moines, IA
4210	Sarah	3-1	b Milan, Ohio, d Des Moines, IA
4211	George H	3-1	b Milan, Ohio
422	Chester	3-1	b Danville, N.Y.
423	Samuel	64-13	Article - Pioneers of Clyde, Jun 1925
			65th wedding anniversary
43	William	30	m Catherine Runkel 24Jun1827
46	John	6	Pg 1178, m Mary Teitsworth, d/o William, s/o John Teitsworth
47	Peter	11-1	bp 28Jun1819
w/o 47	Catherine	11-1	d 20Dec1875
470	Ida Marg	11-1	b 12Oct1860 bp 31Dec1860, d/o Peter and Catherine
470	Essie C (Cordelia)	11-1	d/o Peter & Catherine of Elysburg
		28	m 16Apr1878 to Clarence Swank s/o Washington and Harriet

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
471	Edward	11-1	bp 11Oct1845 s/o Peter and Cathrina Prusan (sic)
w/o 473	Elizabeth	11-1	b 13Jun1861 Mt Carmel, Pa, d 1942 d/o John & Anna (Smeltzer) Wolfgang
4730	Edna W	13-1	bur 24Dec1918, lvg Shamokin Dam
4732	Willard W	13-1	bur 29Oct1917, lvg Sunbury, Pa
48	Daniel	11-1	b 10Apr1825
w/o 48	Anna	5	Living with daughter, a Mrs Smith in Shamokin ca 1910. The daughter is not identified but may be Harriet S whose husband, Wm Yost d in 1908
		57	1900 mother-in-law of James Long
481	Alfred D	57	Listed as Albert in 1860 & 1880
		13-2	Miner
48112	William H	?	Corporal Co E, 71st Penna Vol Inf.
482	Lloyd M	5	Employee of Penna Railroad
w/o482	Kate	10	Book 21, Pg 1 filed 14Jan1929

Records of additional descendants of William (4) may be found in reference sources pertaining to Northumberland County, Penna., in Ohio, and in the genealogy of William (4) in this chapter.

CHAPTER 10

JOHN PERSING (5) AND SOME DESCENDANTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Sketches of the descendants of John (5) are largely those of the author's immediate family. They therefore contain greater detail than those of other branches of the Persing family. This is because of the author's own familiarity, personal recollection, and the firsthand accounts of some members who wrote their own sketches. The life of the author himself is given in even greater detail so that the reader may have some idea of his person and interests. While somewhat acquainted with my forefathers from studying the records left behind, I wish I could have known my own grandfather and his father in real life. Eternity alone will reveal what kinds of persons they were.

JOHN PERSING (5), great, great grandfather of the author was born in New Jersey 12Mar1775, fifth of the six sons born to William and Barbara Persing (Person). He married Anna Eva Larkins in 1797 in New Jersey. Record of the marriage is listed under Miscellaneous Marriages in the volume Central Pennsylvania Marriages[31] compiled by Fisher. A record of his presence in Easton in 1812 is documented in the baptism of son Mathias on 02Mar1812 at the German Evangelical Lutheran Church[Nd6] (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran). The first record of John (5) in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania is in 1811 when he appears on Tax Lists[9] indicating that he possesses a distillery and a saw mill near Whipperill Hill. The remaining information that has been gathered concerning him is recorded in Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pennsylvania[5], pg. 95. We are told that he first settled in Schuylkill County, Pa. where he was a farmer. This may have been a portion of Northumberland Co. at the time. Later he relocated to Northumberland County and settled in Irish Valley (on land later possessed by Joseph Bird) where he farmed and operated the distillery. He died 18Mar1858 at the home of his son Mathias and is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery at Deibler's Station. This cemetery is also known as Mountain Chapel, Old Presbyterian Chapel, the "Log Church" etc. as distinguished from the Rush Presbyterian Chapel cemetery located adjacent to the present Rush Presbyterian Church. The old cemetery has deteriorated to a deplorable condition since the church building was removed. It has not been possible to locate the grave of John and might never be as the grounds are overgrown with trees, briars and various ground covers that make it necessary to do a major restoration project there if his grave is to be found. If located, an effort should be made to refurbish or replace the marker.

MATHIAS PERSING (54), son of John, was born 21Dec1810 in New Jersey. He was baptized at the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Easton[Na6] (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran) on 02Mar1812. It is not certain when the family first settled in Northumberland County but his father John appears on the 1811 Tax Lists[9-1] at Irish Creek. He was raised on this farm and later purchased 100 acres of land for his own farming interests. He also learned the trade of stonecutting and did contract work. One of his large projects was some of the stonework for the Sunbury, Hazleton, and Wilkes-Barre Railroad. Later he associated with Andrew Knoble in the firm of Persing and Knoble, which did much of the masonry work for the large coal breakers at Shamokin. Floyd's Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pennsylvania[5] states that "he was one of the leading men of this region in his day, employing large numbers of men and showing great ability in all his undertakings, which were ambitious enough to give him a place among the most progressive men of his time". He was a respected member of the Presbyterian Church in which he served as a deacon. He married Joanna Parent d/o Ephraim Parent who was of English descent. Mathias died 25Apr1874 at Elysburg and is buried with his wife at St. Jacobs (Reeds) Presbyterian Church.

EMMANUEL S. PERSING (541), son of Mathias, was born 24Aug1843. He was a farmer, manufacturer and merchant. At the time of preparing Bell's History of Northumberland Co., Pennsylvania[6] ca. 1890 he was occupied with farming. He spent some of his early life in Pottsville possibly due to his father's contracting business. He enlisted in the Army in 1864, served in Co. F, 104th Penna. Volunteers until the war's close. After returning home he continued at the farm but also sought additional education. In 1867 he married Catherine Vastine d/o Amos Vastine b. 1813 and Susan (Lerch). About 1890 he and his brother Ambrose bought the Shamokin Valley Roller Mills at Arters, Upper Augusta Twp., Northumberland County which was operated under the name Persing Brothers. In 1892 he sold his share of the business to Frederick W. Cooke. He died 25Nov1909 and is buried at St. Jacobs (Reeds) Church.

WILLIAM E. PERSING, M.D. (54111), son of Amos V., M.D. and Estella (Pensyl) Persing was born 11Feb1895 in Allenwood, Pa. He attended the public schools there and graduated from Bucknell Prep School, the Susquehanna University and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He graduated from Middlesex College of Medicine at Boston. He served in the Chemical Division of the U S Army in WWI. After the war he operated a drug store in Elmira, N.Y. but then returned to medical school. He interned at Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh. He married Dorothy Nichols of Pen Yan, N.Y. and relocated to West Stockbridge, Mass. where he lived and worked as a family physician. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Berkshire Medical Society and was on the staff of numerous hospitals. He also served on the school board, was a church deacon and a member of

the American Legion Post 254 and the Kiwanis Club. He died on 29Apr1966.

CHARLES (ED) PERSING (544), son of Mathias and Joanna (Parent) Persing and grandfather of the author, was born 07Feb1851 at Elysburg, Pa. He was a wheelwright by trade, possibly being associated with his cousin Alfred J. (2111) at Elysburg. He also worked at the Cooke Meat Market; probably getting employment there through his family's association with Frederick W. Cooke, and brother Ambrose Persing who had married Ida Cooke. Mr. Cooke was noted for giving work to the unemployed in hard times. I recall my father telling about eating "chitlings" from the bottom of the barrel in which lard was rendered from pork scraps. It appears too that he was employed by the railroad later as his home in Shamokin was located at one time next to the old station building on Commerce Street. He married Sarah Raker d/o George and Mary (Yoxtheimer) Raker of Seven Points. Although he was the grandfather of the author, he is only known to him from stories passed on by the family. He was known as Ed (from his middle name), a fact which has resulted in some confusion of him with Edward E. (471) of Upper Augusta Twp. He spent a part of his early married life in the vicinity of Sandusky, Ohio possibly in association with some of the descendants of Mathias (42) or in working for the railroad. Two of his children were born in Ohio in 1881 and 1882. However they returned to Shamokin and lived at 216 W. Sunbury St. in 1900[57]. Charles (Ed) died in 1903 according to the author's cousin Geraldine (54410). Floyd's "Annals"[5] says it was 1907 but then he was probably referring to Edward E. (471). Sarah Persing and her family moved to Allentown, Pa. possibly ca. 1920 where she died January 1929. She is buried at Hillside Cemetery in Fullerton, Pa. I do not know where my grandfather, Charles "Ed" Persing is buried.

FLORENCE (FLOY) GATES PERSING YODER (5440) daughter of Charles E. and Sarah (Raker) Persing was born at Bettsville, Seneca Co., Ohio on 27Dec1882. She also resided in Elysburg and Shamokin, Pa. at various times in her early years. She is known to have attended Shamokin schools. About 1920 she and her widowed mother, brothers and sisters moved to Allentown, Pa. where brother Ray largely supported the family. Upon Ray's marriage in 1925, she and her sister Margaret found other residences but her mother Sarah continued to live at the family home until she died in January 1929. Floy married John Yoder of Womelsdorf, Pa. and took up residence in Fullerton, Pa. John Yoder owned and operated a food processing plant on Whitehall St. in Allentown near the author's initial home. He specialized in preparing and marketing horseradish but earlier had produced peanut butter and mayonnaise. Their products were of high quality but eventually the business succumbed to the large corporations such as Kraft and Heinz even though their products were quite fresher. After her husband's death in 1960, Floy took up residence in Allentown until her death in 1966. Her earlier home was located adjacent

to the Hillside Cemetery in Fullerton. It is well remembered by the author as having a spacious yard and a cistern for a water supply. At the end of the yard were forms in which burial vaults were cast as needed. Floy and John had a dog named Laddie, of German shepherd and collie mix, which the author and his brothers enjoyed immensely as they had none of their own. Laddie lived to a good age but due to blindness and injuries from fights with a neighboring dog, lost a bout with a trolley car on 5th street one day and so they lost a friend.

John Yoder was an inveterate tinkerer and produced a number of useful gadgets. But he never was able to market them successfully. After selling his horseradish business, he invested heavily in equipment to manufacture his gadgets. One of these was a method of pipe cleaning (he was a pipe smoker) which would reduce the tar residue often left in a pipe barrel after cleaning. He was buoyed on in this enterprise when General Douglas MacArthur was fired by President Truman and became quite a popular corn cob pipe smoking political figure. John Yoder manufactured a corncob pipe kit which included his new cleaning system. Another device was an opener for baby food jars. None of these enterprises was successful and John Yoder died almost a pauper in 1960 from cancer of the throat.

MARGARET MARY PERSING McDADE (5440) was born possibly at Elysburg, Pa. 27Feb1873. She married Calvin McDade at Kane, Pa. on an unknown date. Calvin had one daughter from a previous marriage. Her name is unknown. After being divorced from Calvin she lived in Fullerton, Pa. on Waverly Ave. Her home was a favorite place for visiting whenever the author's father had a desire to see his sisters. Margaret lived a lonely life but was an active member of a Nazarene church on Turner St. in Allentown. She had a regular routine of fasting on Sunday but she always found something for the author and his brothers to nibble at anyway on visits on a Sunday. Toward the end of her life she moved back to Shamokin, Pa. to be near old friends. In December of 1944, the author's father received a call that she had passed away from pneumonia on the 17th and it had been at least a day until her friends had missed her. The author accompanied his father (brother of Margaret) to Shamokin to make funeral arrangements but cannot recall if he attended the funeral. Perhaps due to their long life as single women both Floy and Margaret had strange ways about them but their nephews nevertheless fondly remembered them.

MALCOLM BRUCE PERSING (5441), son of Charles E. and Sarah (Raker) Persing was born at Elysburg, Pa. about February 1874. He was baptized at his home in Elysburg by Rev. T.O.Clees on 20Mar1875. The author's recollections of him are few but what there are were endearing. Perhaps the first recollection I have is his arrival in Allentown for a visit with his brothers Ray and Harry and sisters Margaret and Floy prior to 1940. I was impressed by his dignity and physical likeness to my father. At

the time, he lived in Kane, Pa. where he owned and operated a butcher shop on Fraley St. Other than his occupation in that trade, which he no doubt had learned in Elysburg with his father, I know nothing else of his work life. He has one grandson, John L. Woodard of Cincinnati, Ohio who may have additional details. One thing I recall of his personal life was that he had lost property in Florida and had a difficult time of it thereafter and because of the depression never fully recovered from it. However he made the best of it and maintained his dignity. I visited Uncle Bruce in Kane after he had suffered a paralyzing stroke that left him unable to speak what was on his mind. He would go to the store for ice cream but all he could ask was that he wanted a quart of sausage. He laughed over this handicap and retained his good nature until his death on 15Jun1942. He is buried at Diamond, Pa. with his wife Wilda. They had one daughter Geraldine (Woodard) who was the only female cousin on my father's side and a very special one indeed. Our visits to her home in Eldred, Pa. were highlights of my teen years and of my married years. My wife and I attended her funeral in Eldred. Our family by then was so small that my brothers and I were her only living first cousins. I can truly say that I treasure pleasant memories of all of my father's family.

DOROTHY GERALDINE ELIZABETH PERSING WOODARD (54410), daughter of M. Bruce and Mary Wilda (Proper) Persing was born 06Dec1907 probably at Kane, Pa. The author knows little if anything of her childhood. She married John Lyndon Woodard on 03Jun1936 at Kane, Pa. and took up residence in Eldred, Pa. John Woodard was the operator of an oil well pumper in the hills surrounding Eldred. They lived in a house constructed by John along a route north of Eldred about 1/2 mile from the N.Y. State border. Later on John would also construct a garage with a 2nd floor apartment for his mother-in-law Wilda Persing. John and Gerry had one son, John Bruce Woodard who presently lives with his wife Fran and family in Cincinnati, Ohio. I remember the happy days that my parents, brothers and I spent at Jerry's home near Eldred. The trip there was the longest we had ever taken together as a family. Jerry, as she wrote her name, was an excellent housekeeper and we had some of the best meals ever, apart from my mother's own. My first visit to Niagara Falls and several other local points of interest in New York and northern Pennsylvania were made on visits to cousin Jerry. Later after I was married, my wife and I visited Jerry with our own children and experienced the same hospitality in the Woodard home. It was indeed a personal loss when John L. Woodard died of lung cancer on 17Jan1966. Jerry continued on but as she grew older she gave up her home and took an apartment in Eldred. My wife and I visited her there and she was still the same caring and outgoing person that we had loved so much in earlier days. On 04Jun1985 Jerry awoke with a pain in the abdomen and within minutes passed away from a ruptured aorta, with her son John at her side. My wife and I attended her funeral in Eldred. She and John Woodard are buried in Eldred,

Pa. One of the greater delights I have in life is to maintain regular communication with my 1st cousin, once removed, John Woodard. In May 1999 my wife and I stopped for a short visit with him and his family at Cincinnati while returning to Florida after visiting our daughter in Indianapolis.

HARRY ELWOOD PERSING (5442), son of Charles E. and Sarah (Raker) Persing was born at Marsaille, Ohio on 08May1881. The author remembers him from times that he spent in our home during childhood days. If I were to characterize him in few words I would say that he was a friendly, thoughtful and jovial man. During a difficult time in his life he lived for a time with us. I cannot recall that 942 N. 7th Street in Allentown was ever his personal home (his mother and family had moved there from Shamokin ca 1920). But I think for a time it became just that. Uncle Harry had married a rather young girl who bore him a son Paul in 1917. Her name was Rose, but I know nothing more of her. The marriage did not prosper, perhaps because of the age difference, and they had been divorced before my own recollections of him. Paul was our elder cousin and as such was idolized by my brothers and me. He would participate in our games and I remember that he would swing us around like toys. Our first experience with a bicycle was with a broken down, felt tired, 28 incher that he had left behind when his father launched out in missionary work amongst the mountain people of Kentucky. Because the tires had huge holes in them, we would use a "gun" designed to shoot a plug made up of rubber bands and rubber cement into the holes so the tires would hold enough air for maybe one ride. This was perhaps the greatest hardship that we felt in the Great Depression, to be unable to own a bicycle of our own, but Paul's bicycle eased the pain.

My uncle loved the Lord and wanted very sincerely to serve him. But he was not a very educated man and also had the smoking habit. These handicaps and the matter of his divorce made it impossible to gain the approval of his local church leaders in support of his missionary zeal. And so he went to Kentucky on his own, working with the poor in the hills outside of Louisville. He took his son Paul, a teenager by then, with him and brought him through those difficult times. But in 1936 Paul contracted polio and was placed on an iron lung in the Louisville hospital. When the great spring floods hit the whole Mississippi valley, Paul's life was in jeopardy as the rising waters threatened the hospital emergency generators. These were days I remember well because of the threat to our dearly loved cousin and because of my own father's losses in the 1936 flood. Paul eventually was released from the hospital but was almost totally paralyzed from the neck down. He was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

PAUL REVERE PERSING (54421), son of Harry E. and Rose Persing was born 17Jan1917. He spent much of his childhood without a mother and was raised by his father. Perhaps the best "mother" that he knew was the author's own. Some of his life up to age 18 is described under the sketch of his father, Harry. On being discharged from the Louisville hospital and severely handicapped by paralysis from polio, Paul determinedly set out to make a life of his own. His wife Elizabeth who would be at his side for 21 years aided him in this. Elizabeth had been one of Paul's nurses in the Louisville Hospital and they had fallen in love. A few years after Paul's father died, in perhaps 1948, Paul and Elizabeth married and set out for California in a new Packard. They said goodbye to the remaining family in Pennsylvania and were never to return. They settled in Long Beach and Paul took up watchmaking. He also did some writing of which this author knows nothing. In 1951, Paul and Elizabeth had a son whom they named Christopher Bruce. He resides in California to this day but made one visit East to see his father's people about 1964 while the author lived in New Jersey.

Paul's occupation suffered a severe setback with the advent of cheap watches such as Timex. Elizabeth had to work to support the family. But despite these difficulties, they established their home. Paul's sedentary physical condition eventually wore down his vascular system and he died at the young age of 40. Elizabeth continued on in Long Beach for many lonely and hard years and saw Bruce to manhood. After the death of the author's mother and cousin Jerry Woodard, the family lost touch with Bruce, but in writing this history the author sought to reestablish it. Although I found Bruce's residence in 1993, we have yet to reestablish family ties. Perhaps future revisions of this history will include more about him and his mother subsequent to his father's death. Not enough could be said about the courage of Paul and Elizabeth. They are Persings of whom we can be proud.

RAYMOND ARLINGTON PERSING SR. (5443), son of Charles E. and Sarah (Raker) Persing was born 29May1884 at Shamokin, Pa. He lived at least some of his childhood in Shamokin where he attended the Shamokin schools and in Elysburg where his father was employed as a butcher and a wheelwright. A part his early life was also spent at Altoona working for the Mallinson mills. After his father's death, he relocated Allentown, Pa. where he had work in the silk mills as an inspector for Mallinson's. In 1925 he married Mamie I. Hess d/o Howard and Elizabeth (Allen) Hess. They had three sons Raymond A. Jr., Samuel H. (the author) and Dale B. In the early 1930's he was laid off at the silk mill as a result of the Great Depression. During the depression years he provided food for his family by planting and tending a vegetable garden on a plot of ground along the Jordan Creek at a site now occupied by the George Washington Motor Lodge. He also owned and operated a vending machine route serving mills and shops in the Allentown area. With income from the vending

machines and the garden, he brought his family through the depression without the aid of welfare which was considered a disgrace by many of those times. However the family home at 942 N. 7th St. was lost and about 1939 they relocated to 225 N. 9th St. By then Ray had found work as a route supervisor of circular distribution conducted by Western Union. Later he worked as a night motor messenger for that company. As World War II developed, the mills in Allentown experienced an upturn and he again found work as an inspector in a weaving mill. He worked at the Lova Mills in Coplay, Pa. until he retired at about age 68. He was, in his sons' opinion, an outstanding and beloved father. The author recalls an occasion in school when the late Louis E. Dieruff, a respected leader in the community and a near neighbor to the Persings on N. 7th St., told the author he did not know a man in Allentown of greater moral integrity than Raymond Persing Sr. Mr. Persing was a sincere Christian and fellowshipped for much of his life amongst the "Plymouth Brethren". The author knows that his devotion to the Lord was the reason for his manner of life. Two years after retiring from work he suffered a devastating stroke and spent the next eight years as an invalid, succumbing to heart disease at age 78. He is buried with his wife, Mamie, who followed in death in 1983, at Grandview Cemetery in Allentown. They will most certainly be among those who will meet the Lord in the air on that grand and glorious resurrection day, not on their own merits, but in the righteousness of Christ.

RAYMOND ARLINGTON PERSING JR. (54431), son of Raymond A. and Mamie (Hess) Persing was born 10May1926 at his home in Allentown, Pa. He attended the Allentown schools and graduated from Allentown High School in June of 1944. In September of 1944 he was drafted into the Army of the United States. He took basic training at Spartansburg, N.C. and went overseas to Europe as an infantry rifleman. He fought in two major campaigns in the closing months of the war through which he passed without injury. He served in the occupation of Germany until 1946 at Ingolstadt. He was attached to the 80th Infantry division, 3rd Army. While at Ingolstadt he met his future wife Elfriede Schmidt, daughter of Armand and Babbette of Kochel Am See, Bavaria. Returning home from the service in 1946, he took employment with the Western Electric Co. as a telephone central office installer. Upon his marriage 23Aug1947 he went to work in his learned trade as a machinist for the Bethlehem Steel Co. in Bethlehem, Pa. Although he did not remain at Bethlehem Steel, he was employed throughout his life as a machinist. He retired from this occupation in 1993 but continues to work part time at it. Early in his married life, he lived on Spring Garden Street in Allentown but eventually purchased a home in Wescosville, west of Allentown, where he currently lives. They are the parents of two sons, Arthur R. and Wayne of Allentown and Fullerton respectively.

Ray, as he is called, is my elder brother. As such he set an example for his younger brothers and led the way in character development and family life. We had the usual differences and arguments of childhood, and even as adults, but have maintained close family ties throughout life. Ray bore the brunt of our father's illness and spent many hours helping mother care for him. Only eternity can properly reward him for it.

SAMUEL HESS PERSING (54432), son of Raymond A. and Mamie (Hess) Persing, and author of this family history, was born at Allentown, Pa. on 10Jan1928. His early childhood was spent at his home at 942 N. 7th St. near the northern city limits. He attended the Washington grade school at 9th & Washington Sts. In his last year at the Washington School, the family moved to 225 N. 9th St. The next year he attended the Central Jr. High School adjacent to the rear yard of his new home. In Jr. High School he nurtured his interest in industrial electricity under the tutoring of Dewey Fenstermacher. He also served on the school's incendiary bomb squad and participated in the installation of its air raid warning system during World War II.

Going on to Allentown High School, he continued his education in Industrial Electricity, graduating in 1945. Shortly after graduation he obtained employment with the Western Electric Company as a telephone central office equipment installer, thus beginning a 37-year career in the Bell Telephone System. He worked for the Western Electric Co. for 6 years except for 13 months spent in military service. While working at Sharon, Pa. in 1949, he met his wife of 48 years, Norma J. (Jean) Diefenderfer d/o Carl and Louella (Van Horn) Diefenderfer. Carl was a descendant of Alexander Diefenderfer of Trexlertown, Pa., an early 18th century immigrant from Nersheim, Germany. Jean, as she preferred to be called, was raised with two sisters by her grandparents, Daniel and Minnie (Keely) Diefenderfer at Sharon, Pa. Sam and Jean were married at the Central Christian Church of Sharon, Pa. on 30Jun1951 and took up residence in Allentown. Not wishing to continue in an itinerant job as a married man, he left the Western Electric Co. in 1951 to take a job with the Dictaphone Corp. as a serviceman. However, having already gotten the Bell System into his blood, he soon returned to it, obtaining a job as a switchman in the Bethlehem Central Office of The Bell Telephone Co. of Penna. In 1953 he accepted the position of Engineer in that company's Engineering Department in Harrisburg where he was responsible for engineering of new and additional local and toll switching equipment until 1962 and later from 1967 to 1982, at which time he retired. During the first span of time at Harrisburg he resided in Penbrook, Pa. From 1962 until 1967 he worked at the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey doing equipment design in the electro-mechanical section of the Switching Division. In that period of time he resided at Neptune, N.J. He returned to Bell of Pennsylvania in 1967 and made his home in Hershey, Pa. from then until 1987 when he and

his wife took up residence in a townhouse development near Palmyra, Pa. where they stayed until September, 1995. He retired from Bell of Pennsylvania in May,1982. Always ready for new experiences, they moved in October, 1995 to Lecanto on the west coast of Central Florida where they now reside.

Sam and Jean, as they are known to their friends, are the parents of three sons, David B. of Mechanicsburg, Pa., William J. of Lancaster, Pa., and Douglas M. who now resides with them in Florida. They also have a daughter, Sharon L. Stapley, who married Steven R. Stapley of North Bay, Ontario. Immediately after their marriage, Sharon and Steve moved to Timmins, Ontario where they resided for about 20 years. In 1998 they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. Sharon and Steve have three children, Paul, Sarah and Rebecca Stapley. In 1988 son David and his wife Nancy gave them a second grandson, Phillip, who is the sole male Persing descendant of Sam and Jean.

Sam was drafted into the Army of the United States on 08Apr1946. He took basic training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland but was transferred to the Army Signal School at Fort Monmouth, N.J. before completing the training cycle. He studied telephony there for six months and then was sent to the Philippine Islands where he was attached to the 4025th Signal Service Group at Manila. Enroute he spent a day in Yokohama harbor in December of 1946 but was not permitted to leave the ship, the S.S. Cape Mendocino, a converted freighter serving as a troop carrier. In Manila for only a few months, he returned to the U.S. in March of 1947 and was honorably discharged at Fort Dix, N.J. on 02May1947.

Mr. Persing has had varied interests in his working life and in retirement. Foremost has been his identification with the ministries of his local church wherever that may be. He was active in Bible studies conducted as a club activity at the Bell Laboratories in New Jersey and by his fellow employees of the Bell of Pennsylvania. For many years he fellowshipped with "Plymouth Brethren" but since retiring he has endeavored to make his place of worship one closer to his residence. Currently he and his wife attend the Grace Bible Church of Homasassa Springs, Florida.

His mechanical interests, long laid aside after his removal from the direct maintenance of telephone equipment, led him to restore a 1942 Chevrolet sedan in his retirement years. On moving to Florida, he sold the restored Chevrolet and understands it is still in operation. As he neared retirement he also revived an interest in learning more about his ancestors and since 1980 has spent many hours researching and compiling the information given in this family history.

Mr. Persing has maintained membership in various organizations of interest to him. He has been a member of the Vintage Chevrolet Club and its now defunct Central Pennsylvania

Region, the Palatines to America Society of Columbus, Ohio and the Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Pioneers of Shamokin, Pa. He is an alumnus of the National Radio Institute of Washington, D.C.

In late 1992, he underwent by-pass surgery to relieve blockages of a coronary artery. This was followed by the removal of his gall bladder in May of 1993. In September 1998 he underwent a graft of the abdominal aortic artery successfully. Having the earnest prayer support of Christian friends and family and an omnipotent and loving God, he recovered from these illnesses and continues in the pursuits of life that have been so interesting to him.

DALE BRUCE PERSING (54433), son of Raymond A. and Mamie (Hess) Persing, was born at Allentown, Pa. on 040ct1929. He attended the Allentown schools, graduating from Allentown High School in 1947 as an Industrial Electrician. He began his working life with The Bell Telephone Co. of Pa. at Bethlehem, Pa. where he was a Central Office technician. He continued there for 42 years, retiring in 1992.

In 1951 he was drafted into the Army of the United States. He took basic training at Camp Gordon, Georgia and telephone training at the Army Signal School, Fort Monmouth, N.J. He served with occupation troops in Germany as a Repeaterman attached to the 506th Signal Long Lines Platoon. Returning home in 1953, he resumed his job at Bell Telephone.

He married Jeanne Pochran, daughter of Joseph and Verna Pochran of Allentown. They have three children. Son Daniel is an attorney in Albany, N.Y. Their daughter Diane and son Todd live in the Allentown-Bethlehem area. Dale and Jeanne have lived at a number of places in the area and presently make their home on So. 10th Street in Allentown.

AMBROSE PERSING (545), son of Mathias and Joanna (Parent) Persing was born 29Dec1859 or 1860 at St. Clair, Schuylkill Co. Pa. On relocating to Northumberland Co., Pa., he attended local schools including the Elysburg Academy. The death of his father in 1874 was a significant factor in his working career. At 18 he took up grain milling at Paxinos and in 1885 he leased the mills at Arters, Pa. "Floyd"[5] tells us that "He then became associated with Ritter & Son of Lairdsville, Lycoming Co., Pa., continuing with them for two years, at the end of which time he and his brother Emmanuel S. Persing formed a partnership buying the Shamokin Valley Roller Mills at Arters, Pa. which they operated under the firm name Persing Brothers. When his brother sold his share of the business to Frederick W. Cooke, he continued milling under the name Persing and Cooke." "Floyd" continues "they turn out a number of popular brands of wheat flour, Golden Sheaf and White Falcon among others, and make a specialty of buckwheat flour, which is famous over a wide territory, having

few equals". Their mill had a large patronage and was the leading industry of Arters and vicinity. He was a leader in his community and served as auditor for Upper Augusta Township and as assistant postmaster at Arters. On 28Mar1885 he married Ida E. Cooke d/o Edwin and Catherine (Casey) Cooke and sister of Frederick W. Cooke, his business partner. He and his wife were members of the United Church of Christ at Sunbury.

After the death of his wife in 1914 he married Mrs. Elizabeth McCloud. There were no children by either marriage but he and his wife Ida had provided a home for his niece Carrie C. (5430) whose parents Hamilton (543) and Sarah (Cooke) had died in 1891 when she was 12 years old. Ambrose died 09Mar1928 and is buried at the Oak Grove Methodist Cemetery. Joe Meiser of Elysburg, who was of invaluable assistance to the author in identifying early Persings, personally remembers Ambrose. The most significant detail of his life that Joe recalls is the fact that Ambrose was financially devastated in the Great Depression and died a broken man.

Some Public Records of **JOHN PERSING (5)** and His Descendants

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
5	John	5	Family of William (*), Pg 175
		6	Page 1203 descendants of John
		9-1	1811 Distillery, saw mill
			1820 Irish Creek, 36 acres
		9-3	John and Anna to William
		15	Pg 94 buried 20Mar1858
		31	m 1797 to Anna Eve Larkins, N.J.
50	S Catherine	6	Pg 1178, d/o John m Isaac Teitsworth eldest s/o Wm T, Cath resided with son Isaac in 1891 Columbia Co.
51	John Wm	9-1	1811 Whipperill Hill
			1820 South Creek, 100 acres
51A	Sofia	11-1	bp 1816, sponsors John Wm Persing and Elizabeth (Dimmick)
51B	Sara	11-1	b 10Sep1817, bp 07Dec1817, sponsors Jacob Moyer and wife Sarah (Persing?)
51C	Catherine	33	Married Henry Stine
		11-1	b 28Sep1819, bp 14Nov1819, sponsors Rebecca Persing and John Sheib
		25	dtr Hannah Stine b 25Aug1881
511	Jacob	19-1f	Vol 4, pg 66, Letters of Admin Locust Twp., Columbia Co
		19-2	Estate sold to Adam Johnson 1871
		11-1	b 18Sep1821, bp 23Dec1821, sponsors Peter Dimmig and wife
5111A	Mary Cath (Kate)	11-1	bp 08Jun1873 Mother is Ida (Haas) Persing
51111	Wm Jacob	13-1	b 03Oct1875, d 06Jun1942 bur Wolf's Crossroads
w/o51111	Susan J	13-1	b 09Jul1885, d 07Dec1970 d/o Henry & Sarah Raker, bur U Luth
511114	Harry	64-15	Allentown Morning Call 21Sep1986 57th Wedding Anniversary 15Sep1986
51112	Charles H	11-1	bp 30Mar1877, s/o George & Ida Haas
51113	Geo Sol	13-1	b 26Jun1880, d 16Feb1952
w/o 51113	Marg Alice	13-1	b 08Apr1872, d 09Aug1946

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
511130	Ruth Isbl	13-1	b 15Jun1910, d 20Mar1962
512	Daniel	11-1	bp 28Apr1823, sponsors Solomon Hummel and Mary (Persing)
51221	Harry W	13-1	1880-1959
51224	H Walter	13-1	1879-1950
51250	Mary C	9-2	Will Book 15, Pg 446, filed 16Aug1927
w/o51254	Grace	8	Pg 160 Member of Ralpho Twp Historical Committee
		64-16	Died in accident on I-83 02Dec1983
5128	Reuben L	13-1	1854-1956 (1946?)
51311	Reuben L	13-1	1884-1943
52	George	5	Killed by falling tree
53	Benjamin	57	Franklin Twp., Fulton Co, Ohio 1850
531	Caleb Ely	57	Franklin Twp., Fulton Co, Ohio 1860
54	Mathias	9-2	Will Book 6, Pg 180, filed 29Apr1874
		43-1	bp 02Mar1812 s/o John and Anna Eve
54B	Emma	6	pg 1203, d/o Mathias
		55	Vol 3, Pg 204, m George W Heffley 12Sep1867 at father's home by Rev John Caldwell
541	Emanuel S	34	Biographical sketch, Pg 922
		6	Page 1203, s/o Mathias
5411	Amos V	34	Biographical sketch, Pg 922
54111	William E	64-18	Obituary, N.Y. Times ca 29Apr1966
		78	b 11Feb1895, d 29Apr1966
54112	Amos V Jr	60	m Pittsburgh 1935, Capt 77th Field Artillery, 18th Brig 13Jul1942
		34	Biographical sketch, Pg 922
543	Hamilton	5	Pg 95, d at Williamsport, Pa.
w/o543	Sarah J	9-2	Will Book 9 Pg 142, filed 08Jan1894
w/o 5443	Mamie I	64-15	Obituary ca16Feb1983

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
545	Ambrose	5	Pg 94 biographical sketch b St. Clair, Pa.
w/o545	Ida E	9-2	Will Book 15, Pg 39 filed 19Nov1914
55	Washington	8	He and John Persing memb of Shamokin Guards, 1st Brig, 8th Div, Vol Btn Reg of the Militia of Pa. 23May1840
		57	Congress Twp., Morrow Cty, Ohio 1850 Cardington Twp, Morrow Cty, Ohio 1860

Records of additional descendants of John (5) may be found in reference sources pertaining to Northumberland County and in the genealogy of John (5) in this chapter.

CHAPTER 11

PHILIP PERSING (6) AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

PHILIP PERSING (6), the youngest son of William and Barbara, was born about 1778 in New Jersey. It is not known exactly when he relocated to Shamokin Township, Northumberland Co., Pa. but he first appears on the local tax lists[9] in 1807, residing in Irish Valley. He occupied himself with farming and shoemaking. He married[31] Mary Eveland in New Jersey and they had three or more sons and three daughters. William W. who inherited William (*)'s farm is known to have removed to Pottsville, PA. then to Newtown, IN in 1849. G. Solomon appears to have continued in Northumberland County at least to 1840. Abraham relocated to Venango Co., Pa. in 1831. A son, George is listed in Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pa.[5]. The identity of this son is not clear. Census records[57] show four males in 1820 and only two in 1830. William W. and Abraham had probably left home by 1830. In 1840 there are still two males at home ages 20-29, in 1850 only one son, George age 31 is still at home. I doubt that the correct number of sons of Philip can be derived from census records. William named Philip (*) as heir to lands owned by him in Pennsylvania but in a codicil dated 07Nov1824, this was changed to make Philip's son William the heir. The reason given was that Philip "hath fallen lame and unable to till or manage the said farm for the support of his family". An article appearing in an area newspaper around the time of the U.S. Centennial in 1876 gives some details of Philip's life. It appears that he possessed peach orchards and had hauled his produce to the area of his former home in New Jersey. This may have been done either before or after his injuries. There is some evidence that he retained a home in New Jersey ca 1850. Philip lived to a good age, 101 years, and died in 1879. He is buried at St. Peters (Blue) Church.

WILLIAM PERSING (61), was born about 1799 at Lower Harmony, NJ where his father Philip resided before moving to Northumberland County, Pa. about 1807. He became heir to William (*)'s farm in Northumberland County because his father who had been heir in the original will, "had become lame" and could no longer farm. This is the reason for a codicil dated 07Nov1824 in which the change is made. The farm was located adjacent to those of William Jr. and Mathias, Philip's brothers. William evidently sold the farm he had inherited to one of his uncles and resided in Elysburg for a time before he and his family relocated to Pottsville, Pa. From there they relocated to Newtown, Indiana in 1849. A record of the trip was obtained from a descendant, Dan Gray of Mechanicsburg, Pa. "They made the journey by rail from Pottsville to Pittsburgh, from Pittsburgh to Madison, IN by steamboat on the Ohio River, from Madison to Indianapolis by rail and from Indianapolis to Newtown by stagecoach." He had

married Susanna Campbell d/o James Campbell in Northumberland County, Pa. All their children were born in Pennsylvania. In Newtown he was a cabinetmaker. He was named an elder of the Newtown Presbyterian church in August 1852 and continued until his death in 1875 at 76 years of age.

SARAH ANNE PERSING (61A) was born 09Jul1827 in Northumberland County, Pa. She married William Murray Gray, a carpenter and mechanic, in Pennsylvania before moving to Fountain County, In. where she died 14Jan1889. The following obituary appeared in the Attica Ledger soon after her funeral:

"Mrs. Sarah Anne Gray was born in Northumberland County, Pa. on July 9, 1827 and departed this life in Newtown, Ind. January 14, 1889 in the 62nd year of her age. She was married to William Gray who with two sons and three daughters, their families, and a large circle of other relatives now mourn her loss. Her married life was a happy, useful, and lengthy one being nearly 41 years in duration. Her own decease is the first death in her own immediate family in all these many years. For the past three years she has been an invalid, being rendered such by a slight stroke of paralysis. A second stroke was much lighter than the first; the third was the messenger that called her home. Her final sickness was brief, lasting only about two hours. Last Sabbath she was in her usual health, yes, somewhat better than usual, and by the aid of her devoted husband made a pleasant and enjoyable visit at the home of her son Horace. Expected, yet unexpected, the messenger came suddenly, yet thanks be to God, found her ready and waiting to enter into that rest that remains for the people of God. She had long since given her heart to Jesus, the dear Savior. At the early age of fifteen years she united with the Presbyterian church and had for nearly half a century been a faithful, humble and devout follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. She is not dead. She liveth still. God calls our loved ones, but we loose not wholly what he has given. They live on earth in thought in deed as truly as in heaven."

David Rankin Love
Pastor, Newtown Presbyterian church

ABRAHAM PERSING (62), was born about 26Feb1806 possibly in Northumberland Co., Pa. as his father Philip is found on local tax lists in 1807. In 1829 he possessed 125 acres in Northumberland County according to these early tax lists[9]. He possibly came into possession of this land, adjacent to his uncle William's farm, as a result of his father's disabling injury. See above sketch on William (61). In the same year, he may have temporarily relocated to Union Co., Pa. before moving on to Venango Co. Sources differ as to the date of his arrival in Richland Twp., Venango Co., some saying 1829, others 1831[48]. They also differ as to whether he came from Union Co. or Northumberland Co. Whatever the date, he was a pioneer settler in the area of Nickleville, first settling at Sugar Creek. In

1848 he purchased lands from Franklin College[50] and continued in farming until 1869 when he and his family moved to Douglas Co., Kansas, settling in Eudora Twp. He married Mary Catherine Walters about 1825, probably in Northumberland Co., Pa. She bore him seven daughters and four sons. Their names were Susanna, Mary A., Sarah Jane, Hannah, Amelia, Lovina/Lena, Rachel, Daniel, John, William M. and Aaron. His wife, Mary died on 29June1874 and is buried at the Deay Cemetery in Douglas Co., Kansas. He then married Peggy Lewis[64-3] on 08Dec1874, lived to age 85 and died on 29Mar1891. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in Douglas Co., Kansas.

JOHN PERSING (621) was born 18Feb1839 at or near Nickleville, Richland Twp., Venango Co., Pa.[48], son of Abraham and Mary Catherine (Walters). He was educated in the local schools and continued on his father's farm, taking possession of the farm in 1875 as his father had moved to Kansas in 1869. Discovery of oil in the area placed him in the business of producing oil and the income from oil no doubt had a part in his entering into sales of farm equipment for a time. On 20Jun1860, he married Anna Eliza Weeter of Salem[53-2a], daughter of Henry and Frances of Clarion Co. They had ten children, William, Cora (Cornell), and Florence (Mullen) of Nickelville; Mary E. (Weaver) of Knox; Emma (Myers) of Pittsburgh; Bertha (Hause) of Rocky Grove; Alice, Nora, Luella and Myrtle. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 20Jun1910. John died on 06Dec1911[64-3] at his home near Nickleville. His funeral service was held at the Salem Lutheran Church.

DANIEL PERSING (622) was born in Northumberland County, Pa. on 08Dec1826, son of Abraham and Mary (Walters)[46]. He relocated to Venango Co., Pa. with his parents about 1831. He married Margaret (or Margot) Jane Hendershot on 01Mar1855, a number of years after a romantic relationship with another woman, Catherine Huey, whom he did not marry, produced his first offspring, a son, William M. His wife Margaret gave birth to additional children, sons Abraham L., Curtin Andrew Gregg (in some records appearing as Austin or Curtis), Sumner B.(Sam), and Oscar Washington Walter C. (one person) of West Virginia and Illinois; daughters Mary M.(Shoup), Anna L. (O'Neil), Idella/Ida (Say), Rachel A. (Mellon), Melinda E. and Ada/Addie. One of the last two was the wife of D.E. Sloan of Oil City, Pa. Daniel took up farming until the start of the Civil War when he felt obliged to defend the Union and enlisted at the age of 36 on 21Aug1862[46]. He was enrolled in Co. F, 121st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 1st Brigade[58-1,2]. He was sent to camp at Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa., then to Washington, D.C. His unit was with the Army of the Potomac at the battle of Fredericksburg and he was wounded in the thigh on 13Dec1862[49]. He was sent to a hospital in Washington where he spent nearly five months recuperating, being assigned to special service for a short time. Permanently disabled from the wounds received at Fredericksburg, he was mustered out of the service on 27Apr1863.

For service to his country he received a pension of four to twelve dollars a month until his death. On returning home, he served as Venango Co. auditor[48] from Jan 1864 to Jan 1867. He died at his home near Bissell Park, Cranberry Twp. on 09Jun1904 and is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Nickleville[64-3,4]. Margaret died on 31Dec1912 at her daughter Mary M. Shoup's home at RD#1 Emlenton, Pa. She had been a member of the Georgeville Church for 40 years and left a brother James of Victory. Another brother, Gus, preceded her in death about 1904.

WILLIAM M. PERSING (6221), oldest son of Daniel, was born 15Sep1848 to Catherine Huey. Daniel was just 21 at the time and did not marry Catherine. While it was an embarrassment to the family, William considered himself to be favored with two mothers for it was Daniel's wife Margaret Hendershot who graciously took him into her home and raised him with her children[2-43]. William, who was also known as J.J., probably bore the taunts of his peers more so than his father and seems to have been ostracized or ignored by some of the family, making his existence a mystery to some present day descendants. He married Sarah S. Moon at Salem City (now Seneca, Pa.) On 02Jul1873[64-5]. She bore him five sons and three daughters. He and his sons took up well drilling in the days of the Pennsylvania oil boom. He left Venango Co. in 1915 when these opportunities dwindled, moving to Noble County, Ohio. Later he relocated to the Poland area of Mahoning County, Ohio where he conducted a gas and oil well drilling business. A grandson Everett (622121) also owned and operated a taxidermy business in New Middletown, being well known for his work in Northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. A devout Christian, William was founder of the Free Methodist Church of New Middletown, Ohio which first met in the home of his son Wilbur (62212). He died on 06July1929 and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Poland, Ohio. A number of William's descendants presently live in the area of Youngstown and Poland, Ohio. A great grandson continues to operate the Persing Drilling Co. founded by William M. Persing.

WALTER S. PERSING (62215) was born 25May1896 at Seneca, Venango County, Pa. He spent his early years in the vicinity of Franklin and Oil City, Pa. until the family moved to Ohio in 1915. There he met and married Diana Whittenberger of New Middletown. He worked in the oil fields for a time after his marriage but in 1938 went into the construction business, doing most of his work in New Middletown and Youngstown. He was a devoted Christian and passed into the Lord's presence on 15Mar1941 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

BETTY JANE PERSING DYKE (62215C) was born 01Jan1923 at New Middletown, Ohio. She attended grade school in New Middletown and graduated from Springfield Township High School in 1941. After graduating she relocated to Galion, Ohio where she worked for the North Electric Co. On 30Aug1943 she married Raymond Dyke and relocated to the vicinity of Seattle, Washington where she

worked at the Naval Torpedo Station while Ray was in the Navy. Raymond Dyke enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1939 and was aboard the battleship "California" at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He is a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. After Raymond left the Navy they moved to Negley, Ohio where he was employed in the trucking management field until retirement. Betty Jane and Raymond have two sons in Christian service. David is pastor of the Westway Christian Church of Toronto, Canada and Daniel is Professor of Old Testament at Cincinnati Bible College in Cincinnati, Ohio. Betty Jane has contributed material for the biographical sketches of the descendants of Philip (6) and also has been a valuable aide in compiling the statistics for this branch of the Persing Family.

ABRAHAM L. PERSING (6222) was born 21Sep1861 in Rockland Twp., Venango Co., Pa., son of Daniel and Margaret Jane (Hendershot). He married Carrie B. _____. One daughter is listed in the U.S. Census for 1910, Gertrude L., possibly there are other children but this is the only record the author has found. A letter from Laurine "Pat" Baker wife of Harry Baker (6221B3) to Emma Persing Myers (6210) relates one major event of his life. "Abraham trapped bears for food and fur. A bear which he thought was dead attacked him after he released the trap and clawed him so severely about the head and face that he died of his injuries on 18Aug1919". However, in September of 1993 I visited Ruth Persing Huff (6224D) at Franklin, Pa. and learned that Abraham had survived this injury and being severely disfigured, he repeatedly had to re-live his experience when asked how it had happened. Ruth, a niece of Abraham, remembers him well and vouches that he did not die (at least immediately) from the injury.

BETTY LOU PERSING RENNER (62241D) was born 08May1925 at Pittsburgh, Pa., daughter of Peter Peoria and Flossie O. Sanford (Coda) Persing. She spent her early days at Franklin and Kennerdell, Pa., moving to Akron, Ohio at an early age. She attended grade and high school in Akron. She married Roy E. Alleshouse on 31Jan1945 at Covington, Kentucky. They were divorced at Akron on 09Sep1947. Her second marriage was to Willis J. Snell on 18Sep1947 at Akron. They had two children, Willis (Bud) Jr. and Georgia R. Betty Lou raised Willis' three children by a former marriage. They were 3,5 and 7 years old when Willis and Betty Lou were married. The family moved to Orlando, Florida in 1956 in order to provide a warmer climate for one of Willis' sons. The Snell family became active in Boy and Girl Scouting, Betty and Willis becoming troop leaders. Betty was also a troop organizer and camp director in Orlando and in Toccoa, Georgia. They returned to Wadsworth, Ohio in 1965 when Willis retired from his Civil Service work. He died on 16Apr1973 at age 57. Betty Lou then married Clare L. Renner on 25Mar1977. Mr. Renner had four grown children at the time of their marriage and Betty Lou found her family increasing once

more. In Wadsworth, she and a friend founded the Wadsworth Doll Club in Oct 1979. For a few years she operated a doll hospital, but gave it up when arthritis interfered with the art. She was a collector of dolls as a hobby and was very active in researching her family's history. She has made significant contributions to this family record and was another outstanding representative of the Persing clan whose origins are in Venango Co., Pa. It was with much sorrow that I learned from her half brother Gifford in 1996 that she had passed away after a lengthy period of immobility.

Some Public Records of **PHILIP PERSING (6)** and His Descendants

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
6	Philip	5	Page 95 Family of William (*)
		9-1	First record in Pennsylvania 1807 Irish Creek 1820 South Ridge (This was Wm Sr's Pa. farm)
61	William	9-1	1829 laborer
62	Abraham	48	Pg 93,583,584,1115,1116 Fam of Abraham 1831, early settler from Union County, pioneer of Richland Twp, Venango County
		66	m Peggy Lewis 08Dec1874
		9-1	1829 125 acres adj to Wm (61)
		50-1	1848 Venango Co Pchsd land from Franklin College 1875 Sold land to John Persing (621)
		46	Pg 345 Pioneer of Nickelville Richland Twp
		53-2a	Attended sessions meeting 23Mar1861 Members list 17Feb1859
621	John	64-3	Obituary 13Dec1911 Wedding Anniversary 20Jun1910
		48	Pgs 583,584,1115,1116 Biographical sketch, Richland Twsp. Occupied land of Wm Adams, tanner 1828
		53-2a	m Eliz Weeter at Salem City (Seneca)
621A	Bertha	64-1	Named in obit of daughter Hazel Coyle 08Feb1990
w/o6211	Agnes	64-2	Obituary 01Feb1907
622	Daniel	46	Biographical sketch, b 08Dec1826, Northumberland County, Penna.
		46	Pg 639 b Nmbd Co Pa,to Venango 1831 Pg 168 G.A.R. Co F, 121st PVI Discharged 26Apr1863, Wash, D.C. Pg 116 county auditor
		48	Page 137 County auditor
		49	Pg 1353 Wounded above knee Aug 1862 at Fredericksburg. Enlisted at age 36
		64-3,4	Obituary 16Jun1904
		58-1,2	Pension and military recds, Civil War
w/o622	Margaret	64-3	Obituary 15Jan1913

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
622C	Mary M	64-5	Marriage notice 16Aug1877 to David E Shoup by Rev J C Hench
		53-12c	bp 15Feb1868
622D	Rachel A	53-2c	bp 15Feb1868
6221	William M.	64-5	m at Salem City (Seneca) 02Jul1873 to Sarah Moon by J W Smullen, Esq
6221?	William	53-2b	Possibly m to Agatha 31Dec1890 Not sure this is 6221
622121	Everett	65	Proprietor Persing Taxidermy Calla Rd., New Middletown, OH Work on display at Eddie Yasecko's Truck Stop, Emlenton, PA
6222	Abraham L	50-1	1867-1914 8 deeds incl 2 to John (621?)
		50-3	Vol 22, pg 245 d 18Aug1919
		53-2b	bp 15Feb1868
6223	Curtin U S Grant	53-2b	bp 15Feb1868
		-	Some records read Austin, Curtis
6224	Sumner B (Samuel)	50-2	Marriage license appl 26Jul1889
		64-1	Obituary 14Jan1946
		53-2b	bp 15Feb1868
w/o6224	Orpha	64-1	Obituary 25Jan1967 Family reunion 09Jun1963
6224C	Minnie	64-1	Obituary ca 08Aug1992
62241	Peter	64-1	Obituary ca 23Jun1982
w/o62241	Alice	56	Marriage license appl, Alice Graham
w/o62241	Flossie	63	Buried Maple Grove Cem, Ravenna, OH
622413	Bobby F	64-1	Obituary 5Apr1990
		64-7	" 4Apr1990
62242	Herbert H	49	Pg 1353, Veteran of WWI
		46	Veteran of WWI
		64-1	Obituary June 1970
62243	George G	64-1	Obituary Oct 1975
w/o62243	Mildred	64-1	b 21Feb1901 at Pleasantville, Pa.

Linecode	Name	Source	Record
6224330	Karen	50-2	Adopted by Ruth Persing Huff and surnamed Huff, Docket 55-323
		50-2	For adoption of brothers and sisters see 55-177,68-455,69-308,60-454
623	William	66	m Gracie Joa 24Jun1868
6231	William G	67	Stafford County, Kansas Marriages 1887-1896, blacksmith m 12Jan1893 to Hattie Eliz Batman
62312	William E	64-17	Obituary 25Jul1968
-	-	50	Numerous deeds involving Persings
-	-	70	May list additional descendants of Abraham 62
w/o 63	Susanna	11-1	b. 28Jan1797, bap. 09Apr1797

Records of additional descendants of Philip (6) may be found in reference sources pertaining to Northumberland and Venango Counties in Penna., in Ohio, Oklahoma, Wyoming and other states named in the genealogy of Philip (6) in this chapter.

CHAPTER 12

CATHERINE AND MARGARET

MARIA CATHERINE PERSON (A) was born in Bucks County, Pa. on 13Feb1759. She was baptized as Maria Catherine Bassinger at the Tohicken Reformed Church[38], Bedminster Twp. on 10Apr1759. Present at her baptism were her parents William Bassinger, his wife Barbara, and Philip Drum and wife. The baptism of her future husband, John Yeager appears also in these church records under date 16Oct1757. On the same day, her soon to be married parents William Bassinger and Barbara Drum appeared as witnesses to the baptism of Maria Catherine Barbara Drum d/o John and Maria Drum. John and Philip may be Barbara's brothers.

No further record of Catherine appears in Bucks County but in 1771 and some following years, she appears in church records as a communicant of the German Reformed Church[Nd3,4] at Greenwich, Sussex County, N.J. or at Easton, Pa. These records comprise the earliest proof of the presence of the Persing (Person) family in New Jersey. Catherine married John Yeager (Jager) son of John Sr. and Elizabeth (Schneider) Yeager but the date is unknown. A confirmation of the marriage appears in the Strassburger Family[3-4] history. This history also gives an account of the migration of John Yeager Sr.'s family from Bucks County, Pa. to the Easton area in Northampton County, Pa. about 1758. While the precise timing of the relocation of Catherine's family from Bucks County, Pa. to Greenwich in Sussex County, N.J. has not been documented, the story presented in the Strassburger history gives a clue to the approximate time and also how John Yeager, Jr. and Catherine met, likely through association with the Easton and Greenwich German Reformed congregations.

The record of Catherine at Greenwich[ND3] on 26Oct1771, at which time Catherine received communion, is important for it further closes the gap that exists between the last Bucks County record[38] of William and Barbara Persing (Person) and the New Jersey years. No records have been located for the years 1760-1770 but Mathias (2) is said[5] to have been born in New Jersey about 1766. It is not known in what town or county. These dates are the basis of the author's conclusion that the family moved from Bucks County, Pa. to New Jersey between 1759 and 1766, probably by 1760 since no record of George's (1) birth in Pennsylvania in that year has been found.

Catherine would have been 12 years of age in 1771 and she appears in the German Reformed records as Catherine Passonin. She appears in the records of 1773 and 1774 as Catherine Passonin, Anna (probably an additional Christian name) Catherine Bassanin and Catherine Bassingein. Lastly in 1781 her name is given as Catherine Bassong. The addition of -in or -ein to the surname of single women was a common practice. These surnames thus correspond to those found in Bucks County records of her

father William. It is interesting too how the surname BASSONG closely approximates an early usage of PERSONG in Northumberland County records of George (1) and some of his brothers. The records of Catherine thus give some indication of an evolving surname finally concluding with PERSING for five of the six branches. The other branch retained the surname PERSON.

Catherine Persing/Person Yeager died of dysentery[Nd6] on 25Sep1817 and is buried at the Harmony, N.J. Presbyterian Church in a grave adjacent to those of her parents William and Barbara Person. John Yeager's grave has not been located, although there is an unmarked space separating her from the graves of her parents. The last record of John Yeager that I have found is of his being a godparent at the baptism of John (24), son of Mathias Passinger at Easton in 1794.

MARGARETHA PERSON (B) was born 23Apr1762[2-1] . No record of her baptism has been found in Bucks County churches as in the case of her sister Catherine. Most of the early German Reformed records[Nd3] of the Greenwich congregation appear to have been lost and no records of baptisms of the remaining Persing/Person children have been found. It appears that the family relocated to New Jersey about 1760 when brother George was born in August. No record of his birth has been found in Pennsylvania records. Mathias is reported by "Floyd" to have been born in New Jersey (about 1766) so it is apparent that the family moved to New Jersey between 1759 and 1766. Margaret is listed as a communicant on 11Jul1774 at Greenwich under the name Margaret Bassanin. It is strange that none of her brothers or her parents are found in the communion records of the Greenwich congregation. Unless they appear on the "lost" records the possibility is that they worshipped elsewhere at that time. But her father William was a deacon of the Greenwich congregation in 1788. Further research in Sussex County may yield the missing information.

Margaret married Paul DeWitt, of a family well represented in Sussex and/or Warren Counties. They relocated to Northumberland County, Pa. probably in the era of the mass migration from Sussex County to Pennsylvania (1785-1802). A notation of her burial in the Presbyterian Mountain Chapel, aka Mountain Chapel and Log Church, cemetery near Deibler's Station in Shamokin Twp. appears in local records[3-6e]. The author has been unable to locate the grave due to the poor condition of this abandoned cemetery. The date of death is given as 15Sep1848. A will[9-2] is on file at the Northumberland County courthouse. A genealogy of some of the descendants of Margaret and Paul DeWitt has been developed by the Meisers[3-6e]. Their offspring appear in the tree of the family of William and Barbara since no separate trees have been compiled for the female lines.

Chapter 13

WILLIAM'S BROTHER ABRAM

My father told my brother Ray that two brothers had come to America from Alsace/Lorraine. He did not know the brother's name. When I found a family bible[4-1] in the family of Dean Persing 42312, it contained the name of William's brother. The name was Abram.

Armed with that information, I began a search for an Abram Person or Abraham Passing(er). I found an Abraham Passinger in Lower Saucon Twp., Northampton Co., Pa. I traced him as far as Monroe County, Pa. but found no evidence to link him with William.

In my research in New Jersey I had run across a John Person who had died intestate in 1796. Further investigation in Sussex County deeds revealed that this family also used the surnames Persing and Persong. In fact most of the given names of the family paralleled those of William's family. This family lived in Knowlton, Sussex County, NJ. Some details about this family are given in Chapter 16 under Possible Related Families. I think some additional research of this family may be worthwhile but as I now live in Florida, it is not likely that I will travel to New Jersey just for that reason.

Quite some time ago I was placed in touch with Dr. Alfred H. Kuby, a retired German pastor from Edenkoben in the Rhineland-Pfalz. He has much knowledge about families residing in his area including their origin. Correspondence with him produced some details about the family Bassing(er). He had arrived at the conclusion that investigating this family might bear some good results. In this family the given name Abraham appeared frequently but did not in the other surnames I had given him. He also indicated that the family name had changed to Bassing(er) from Bassin and (earlier) possibly Bossan. He was also clear that the family was Huguenot and probably had lived in the Rhineland for several generations before William and Abram left for America.

I conducted a research of the name Bassing(er) in the Rhineland area after Dr. Kuby indicated that an Abraham Bassinger had been mayor of Weitersweiler in the Rhineland in 1673. I found LDS records of the church in Marnheim where most Bassingers seemed to be located. Although I found no evidence of William and Abram in these records, I am including the results of that search in this chapter for reference. Also my tabulations of the descendants of Abraham Bassinger of Lower Saucon Twp., Northampton Co., Pa. are included.

I had also found many records of William Bassingers in Wurzburg in Bavaria. These Bassingers seemed to be of Huguenot origin too. They had probably gone to that area in the earliest

Huguenot persecutions in France for I found records of them in the 1500's. But no direct link to William Persing b. 1733 could be found. Most of these records are included in the LDS IGI files.

Having found nothing concrete in these records, I resorted to the Internet as a means of learning more about William and Abram's origin. At this printing, Internet research has not yielded anything more definite about the place of origin of William and Abram.

CHAPTER 14

THE WESTWARD TRAIL

William Persing (*) possibly may have been living in Allen Twp., Northampton Co., Pa. when Indian raids on farms near the Blue Mountains in 1767 caused him to seek safety in Bucks Co., Pa. After his marriage there to Barbara Drum he migrated from Bucks County to Greenwich Township, Sussex County, N.J., almost due north of his Bedminster Township, Bucks Co. location, in fact only 25 miles away. It then remained for his sons to reach maturity and join the westward trek as Indian lands were purchased and opened to settlers. George, the eldest, appears to have arrived in Northumberland County, Pa. perhaps as early as 1785. Not many years before, peace was made with the Six Nations and it became safe to homestead on lands in Northumberland County. Many of the early residents of Hunterdon and Sussex Counties of New Jersey chose to do so and it appears that George was among them, probably going along with them to Reading in Berks County, Pa. and then over the Tulpehocken Trail to Shamokin. George settled along the Roaring Creek and there raised his family. They lived in log cabins, cleared the land and endured the hardships which we equate with pioneers. George's sons later moved on into the northern tier counties of Tioga, Potter, perhaps Sullivan etc. They were among the pioneer settlers of these areas. Some of George's descendants remained in the Shamokin area and their offspring may be found there today.

Mathias followed George to the Northumberland County area about 1796[9-1]. It appears that his sons remained in that area although later generations moved on, some to the midwestern states of Indiana and Michigan and beyond.

Jacob alone seems to have remained in New Jersey where he became the heir to his father's New Jersey farm. Some Persons living in Warren County can trace their roots to Jacob. But like other branches of the family, the majority know only their near relatives. They do have more of a problem in identifying relatives than Persings because research has shown that there are other Person families in Warren County that are indeed unrelated. I have spoken with genealogists in the area who are inclined to identify Persons of the area as Scandinavian rather than of German descent. This is true but the original spelling of the Scandinavian surname is PERSSON.

William Jr. left New Jersey about 1799 for Northumberland County. He found it a fertile place for an entrepreneur. It remained for his son Mathias to move on into New York State and to mid-western Ohio in 1846. He was truly a pioneer in that area of Ohio and stories of firsts abound in his experience. Other of William Jr.'s children moved into northern Pennsylvania and some of its western counties as well.

John was one of the last to leave New Jersey and worked his way to Northumberland County being firstly located in Schuylkill County. Even this location was probably close to his brothers as Schuylkill County was carved out of Northumberland (in part) in 1811. I have recently found that he purchased his land from John Penn and am anxious to read the deed. His sons Benjamin and Washington participated in the western migrations to Ohio and Illinois, Benjamin's descendants being found later in Nebraska and California where they continue today.

Philip relocated to Northumberland County about 1807 where he lived on his father's Pennsylvania farm, later willed to Philip's son William by William Sr. Philip's son Abraham moved on into western Pennsylvania in 1831 where the family ultimately became involved in the oil boom. As oil production gave way to Texas oil, some of Abraham's descendants moved into the eastern areas of Ohio where they were involved in gas and water drilling operations. Some of his descendants remain in those areas today and others have moved on farther west.

Most of us who have remained in Pennsylvania do not think of our family as pioneers. We seem to think that Shamokin and Sunbury were the only ancient homesteads, but the record of history shows that Persings were as much a part of the settlement of the west as any other early American families. Theirs was a hard life, far more so than we can imagine today. I, for one, am proud of my heritage and if there were one over-riding desire in publishing this account of the Persing Family, it would be to bind our immediate families more closely, knowing that we are descended from people of a pioneering spirit.

CHAPTER 15

TODAY

There are many sources of addresses of Persings and Persons. Telephone books are often kept at a local library but are generally outdated. The Internet can be used to research addresses, genealogies and other appearances of family members there. Another source would be publications of family name books such as Halberts. Be warned though that these types of publications do not give anything in the way of relationships.

If any reader would care to know more about his relationship to the Persings/Persons appearing in this book, please contact me and I will be glad to help. If I can identify your connection by linking you to parents, grandparents or farther back, I will send you a copy of the tree branch in which you will then appear, without charge, in appreciation for the information. Please be sure to include all of your family as far back as you know with dates and other data as appears in the trees included in this book.

My address at publication is:

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Lecanto, FL 34461-9549
E-mail samper@hitter.net
Telephone 352-527-2875

CHAPTER 16

DOCUMENTATION

This chapter is included to document the research findings, to substantiate some of the conclusions reached by the author, and to give the reader some background information should he desire to look more closely at some of the records and follow his particular line in greater detail.

Pennsylvania Research

The author has depended heavily on the information published in "Floyd's" Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pa.[5] for the early families. Comparison of information in "Floyd" with known family sources points to the source of it as the family of Emmanuel S. (541). In addition the summaries of research of Northumberland County pioneer families as published by Dr. Joseph Meiser in some cases provide the only links to these early families. I'm sure that Dr. Meiser has placed these families in the trees from the best information available to him. However they represent educated guesses in some cases. No documentation is given in his records as to sources and in such cases where the only information as to pedigree is taken from his records, I have not assumed a documented one, therefore there is room for error. That information is assumed to be correct unless it has been found faulty, as it has been in a few cases. Those faults have been covered in previous chapters. "Floyd's" and Meiser's data have been supported by the few family trees and bibles that have been sourced and are a reliable record for the most part. The second major source of information has been the U.S. Census for 1790 through 1920. The reader should be aware that the 1920 census is the latest available for public use, there being a 70-year interval before a census is available to the public. Also it takes one or two years more for public libraries to obtain microfilms of the records. As they become available researchers can use them to enlarge on the genealogies of their own families. While the author has made an extensive search of the available census records, there were certain limitations in time and energy devoted to the task. Most of the research for the early years in Pennsylvania was done with films for Northumberland, Columbia, Tioga, Potter and Venango Counties only. Furthermore only those townships or municipalities where Persings had been found in preceding years were reviewed. When the Soundex system came into use in 1880, the listings were coded by surname and research by county and municipality was no longer necessary. There are sure to be some listings that were also missed due to poor quality of films or simple eye fatigue. Some guesswork was used in placing people in the individual lines, especially since Floyd's "Annals" were rather sparse for the third generation. Also, the U.S. Census before 1850 was not much of a help either since only heads of families were named. It is in these early generations that the information compiled

by the Meisers was invaluable. Even so the author admits there are mistakes and omissions. Any who have family bibles that prove a mistake should contact the author to have it corrected. Contributors to the genealogies are named in the Reference Material, Item 2.

Minimal research has been done in Western Pennsylvania counties with the exception of Venango because only a few Persings were found living in that area.

More research is necessary to document William's brother Abram who may be an Abraham Passinger found in records of the Williams Township congregation, Northampton Co. and, earlier, at the Trinity Union Reformed congregation in Springfield Township, Bucks Co., Pa. A chapter on the author's findings re: the family of Abraham Bassinger, is included in the book.

New Jersey Research

The most significant documentations of New Jersey findings are the U.S. Census[57] of New Jersey from 1830 to 1860, Warren County cemetery records[Nc], the wills[Na] of William(*) and Jacob (3) and the family bible of Howard Person (35521)[Ne]. These all confirm the Persing/Person relationship. The 1830 census and the will of William Persing (*) reveal the use of these two surnames by the family. The wills of Jacob Person and William Persing (*) name their children, leaving no doubt as to their immediate descendants. The family bible of Howard Person confirms the descendants of Jacob Person and substantiates the tree established by the author from New Jersey census information. In addition church records[Nd] of the Greenwich and Easton Reformed congregations confirm the use of (B)Passinger as well by the family. Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J.[Nb] and various church[Nd] and newspaper[Nw] records of that area were also of much help in developing the genealogy of Jacob's descendants. Much remains to be done in researching this line especially to document William's (*) move to New Jersey after his residence in Bedminster Township, Bucks Co., Pa. The question of his relationship, if any, to Godfrey Person of Lower Harmony and to a family whose surname appears in the same variations as William's at Knowlton, N.J. also needs to be answered.

Ohio, Mid-west, Western and Southern States Research

Ohio research has been limited to the U.S. Census for 1850 to 1870[57] and to information provided by families [2-20,21,28,41,43,45,102] living there today. No attempt has been made to enlarge the trees through additional census information from 1880 to 1920. It would be best for Ohio Persings to undertake this project as the public records necessary to confirm census findings are more conveniently at hand. At this point in time the author doubts very much that he will undertake further Ohio research by himself.

The same is true for the midwest and western states such as Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Wyoming and others where Persings [2-5,11,13,16,18,19,33,34,42,46,49-51,82-84,111,112,122,126] are known to have migrated in the 19th and 20th centuries along with countless others. However the author will be pleased to share information with any interested persons and will update the genealogies in this book as additional families are found.

It seems that most Persings now living in the mid-south and south arrived there in more recent times. Most of what has been found has been through the census, Social Security records, telephone directories and by direct contact with Persing descendants[2-12a,27,37,39,47,48,55] living there. The author will continue to make contacts as time and energies permit.

The Internet

Documentation of Internet sources is kept on the author's computer. Two processes have been used to obtain information. One has been to solicit Persings having e-mail addresses for family information. Sometimes my project has become known to people I have not contacted, rather, they have contacted me. In either case the information in their e-mail is kept in a file named for the particular linecode involved. Where an identification cannot be made the e-mail has been placed in another file for future use. The second process has been to use the Internet browser and search engines to find Persings or documents where they are likely to be found. Some examples of these are the Social Security Death Index, Military Pension Lists etc. There are many Genealogical sites on the Internet and many of these have been searched for Persing entries. A lot of family histories are there and ties to these families and Persings abound. Such sites have been bookmarked and a record is kept of the tie to Persings in the browser's bookmark file.

Reference Material

(Does not include New Jersey sources)

Listed below are some reference materials used by the author in researching this family history. Many of these sources are available in Public Libraries of the areas being researched. Superscripts such as [2-1] are used to indicate the Reference numbers used in the text of other chapters.

1. The author's initial tree prepared from information given to him by his parents. See page 159.

2. Portions of Family Genealogies Held by Author

		LINE
1	Amos Persing, D.D.S. 541121, Lewisburg, PA	1-6
2	Burl Persing, 11141, Gaines, PA	111
3	Joan Persing, 111230, Baltimore, MD	1112
4	Sarah Giglio, 11130, Orchard Park, NY	1113
5	Elaine Persing, w/o 111313, San Dimas, CA	11131
6	David Persing, 15211, Elysburg, PA	15
7	Jack Persing, 151211, East Stroudsburg, PA	1512
8	Harry Persing Jr. MD, 15232, Altoona, PA	152
9	Eleanor Persing, w/o 21321, Elysburg, PA	213,214
10	Thomas Persing, 213114, Pennsburg, PA	21311
11	Joseph Conrad, gs/o 21311, Trenton, MI	21311
12	Florence Yeager, 21320 Shamokin, PA	2132
12a	Charlotte Hoyer, gd/o Charlotte 2140, Houston, TX	214
13	Dorothy Persing, w/o 21512, Kansas City, MO	215
14	Michael Snyder, gggs/o 22A, Pottstown, PA	22
15	E Hope Conrad, ggn/o 222, Germansville, PA	222
16	Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, gd/o 2241B, Phoenix, AZ	224
17	Donald Persing, 226531, Belmawr, NJ	226
18	David Persing, 226532, Elkhorn, NE	226
19	Mabel Persing, w/o 22663, Frostproof, FL	2266
20	Dean W Persing, 42312, Columbus, OH	4
21	Jane Persing, w/o 42311, Clyde, OH	4
22	Grace Granzow, ggd/o 48, Hummelstown, PA	48
23	Sarah Jane Persing, 51130, Sunbury, PA	5111,5112
24	Harry Persing, 511114 Allentown, PA	5111,5112
25	Charles Persing, 511115, Middletown, PA	51111
26	George 5122111 & Edith Helt 512210, Harrisburg,PA	512
27	Salette Latas, ggd/o 512, Goldsboro, NC	512
28	Kimber 51252, Richard 512521, South Euclid, OH	5125
29	Nancy Persing, xw/o Sydney 512541, Middletown,PA	51254
30	Amy Britton Rhodes, family of 51311 Sunbury, PA	513
31	Helen Culp, family of 51311, York, PA	513
32	Lillie Persing, w/o 513112, Shamokin, PA	51311
33	Zelna Persing, w/o 53121, Colma, CA	53
34	Vernita Sheley, 531210, San Bruno, CA	53
35	Pearl Rohrbach, d/o Susan 541A, New Columbia, PA	54
36	Martha Schooley, 54110, Allenwood, PA	54
37	Samuel H Persing, 54432, Author, Lecanto, FL	54

38 Geraldine Woodard, 54410, Eldred, PA 544
39 Gifford Persing, 624411, Orlando, FL 62
40 Ruth Huff 6224D, Franklin, PA 62
41 Betty Lou Renner, 622410, Wadsworth, OH 62
42 Minnie Corklin, 6224C, Cheyenne, WY 62
43 Betty Jane Dyke, 62215C, Cincinnati, OH 62
44 Mary Sanford, family of 6224, Kennerdale, PA 62
45 Elsa Persing, w/o 622132, New Middletown, OH 62
46 Twylla Berger, 6225A0, Yale, OK 622
47 Laurine Baker, family of 6221B, Dallas, TX 6221
48 Martha Myers, 6224E, Conyers, GA 6224
49 Ina May Pummill, 623111A, Fayetteville, AR 623
50 Wayne Persing, 62331, Tulsa, OK 623
51 Lena Persing, w/o 62312, Coyle, OK 62312
52 Peter Dimmick Jr.'s Descendants - CPGP Files *4
53 John Penman, gggs of 5A5, Bloomsburg, PA 46,5A
54 Donald G Persing, 512222, Lancaster, PA 51222
55 Nancy Sweeney, gggd of 1B, St. Petersburg,FL *1,15,151
56 Fred Persing, 152311, Audubon, PA 15
57-70 Reserved

Contacts via E-Mail

71 Brian Persing, 1114111, Queensbay, NY 111411
72 Barbara Slack, ggd/o 1212, Scranton, PA 12
73 Rick Van Tassel, Desc of 133D, Glen Burnie, MD 133D
74-80 Reserved

81 Trudy Campbell, Desc of 2113, Monroeville, PA 2113
82 Donna Wiens, Desc of 224, El Cajon, CA 224
83 Ellen Grable, w/o 22424A2, San Diego, CA 22424
84 David Persing, 226532, Elkhorn, NE 226532
85-90 Reserved

91-100 Reserved

101 Shawn M Persing, 4112113, Coudersport, PA 4112
102 Christy Kuriatnyk, 422121B, West Farmington, OH 422
103 Marilyn Souders, Desc of 470, Brooklyn, NY 470
104 Norman V Persing, 471311, Address unknown 4713
105-110 Reserved

111 Norman L Persing, 531221, Burlingame, CA 53122
112 William Schooley, 541101, Woodburn, OR 54110
113-120 Reserved

121 Daniel Gray, Family of 61A, Mechanicsburg, PA 61
122 Kathryn Gray, Family of 61A, Danville, IN 61A
123 M T Major 621
124 Mark Hause, gggs of 621A, Redondo Beach, CA 621A
125 Kellie K Persing, 6224211A, Warren, PA 622421
126 Carol Sue Hair, 623112A, Ballwin, MO 6231
127-? Reserved

3 Other Family Genealogies

1 The Cleveland Genealogy
2 Hoagland Family
3 Dunkleberger Family - Turner
4 Strassburger Family -Strassburger
5 Fisher Family - Pg 182 - C.W. Fisher - 1890
6 Selected Families of Northumberland Co., Pa. - Meiser

a Roadarmel
b Raup
c Swank
d Persing (unpublished lists)
e DeWitt (unpublished lists)
f Yocum (unpublished lists)
g Metz

7 Drum Family

a History and Genealogy of the Drum Family (1827-)
Laura M. Helman, Allentown, Pa. Library of Congress CS71.D796

b Some Descendants of Johann Adam Trump
Frank Kocher, State College, Pa.

c Eighteenth Century Emigrants Volume II, The Western Palatinate - Annette K. Burgert - 1985

8 Roberts Family - Lee F. Roberts

9 Ely, Revell and Stayce Families Daniel B. Ely - 1910

10 Genealogy of the Persing Family -
Zelna B. Persing and Vernita L. Sheley - 1989

11 Thurston Genealogy - Author unknown

4 Family Bibles

1 Dean W. Persing 42312 - Columbus, Ohio

2 Howard R. Person 35521 - Roanoke, Virginia

3 Charles Persing 121221 - York, Pennsylvania

4 June McGuire 47131A - Rosewell, Georgia

5 Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland Co., Pa. -
J.L. Floyd Publishing Co. 1911. Pgs 94,95,175

6 History of Northumberland County, Pa. - H. C. Bell - 1891
Pgs 158, 661, 670, 728, 732, 797, 880, 927, 1025, 1167,

1169, 1178, 1191, 1203

7 Northumberland County Historical Society Proceedings-Vol 7

8 Ralpho Township: History, Heritage and Hearsay - Ralpho Twp Historical Committee, Pgs 10,11,22,34,37,50,56,59,69,76, 77,95,102,111,135,140,160,169,170

9 Northumberland County Courthouse Records

1 Tax Lists 1787 - 1811, 1820 and 1829
2 Wills and Inventories
3 Deeds
4 Death Records

10 Wills and Testaments of Northumberland Co. Vol I-IV 1774-1858 Also in Northumberland Co. Historical Society Proc. Vol. 17

11 Northumberland and Columbia County Church and Cemetery Records - Meiser
(References to all Persings covered in these records are too numerous to list in Chapters 4 to 12)

1 St Peters (Blue) Church and Cemetery
2 St. Jacobs (Reeds) Church and Cemetery
3 Catawissa Ave United Methodist Cemetery
4 Wolfs Crossroads Cemetery
5 Bear Gap Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (Columbia Co)
6 Fisherdale Cemetery - Cleveland Twp., (Columbia Co)
7 Lutheran Cemetery - Numidia (Columbia Co)
8 Reformed Cemetery - Numidia (Columbia Co)
9 Pomfret Manor Cemetery
10 Mount Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Cemetery
11 Rush Presbyterian Cemetery
12 Presbyterian Chapel (Mountain Chapel) (Old Log Church)
13 Mile Run Cemetery
14 Houser Road Cemetery
15 Irish Valley Methodist Cemetery
16 Northumberland County Memorial Cemetery
17 Deibler Station Baptist Cemetery (Shamokin Baptist)
18 Snydertown Reformed Cemetery
19 Pine Hill Cemetery
20 Shamokin Cemetery
21 Irish Valley Summit Baptist Cemetery
22 Herndon Cemetery - Jackson Twp
23 IOOF Cemetery
24 Northumberland Riverview Cemetery
25 St. Johns German Lutheran Church - Catawissa
26 Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church - Sunbury
27 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church - Mount Carmel

12 A Genealogists Guide to Burials in Northumberland Co., Pa. Joseph A. Meiser

13 Miscellaneous Local Records

1 Wirt and Blank Funeral Home - Sunbury
2 1886-1888 Shamokin and Sunbury Directory

14 M.C. Farrow Funeral Home Burials - Joseph Meiser

15 Diary of Eliza John - Vol 19, Pgs 3,20,41,75,94

16 History of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pa. - 1887
Herbert C. Bell edited by J.H. Battle. Pgs 158,661,670
728,732,797,802,1025,1067,1169,1178,1191,1203

17 Historical and Biographical Annals of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pa. - J. H. Beers Co.

18 History of Columbia County - John G Freeze, Pgs 365,635

19 Columbia County Courthouse Records

1 Wills
a George (1) Vol 2, Pg 141, Will #6
b Catherine (10) Vol 2, Pg 215
c Peter (15) Vol 6, Pg 58
d David (152) Vol 16, Pg 245
e Ursula (w/o 152) Vol 19, Pg 58
f Jacob (511) of Locust Twp

2 Deeds - Numerous Persings 1840-1918

3 Orphans Court Records
a George
b Mathias
c Minnie

4 Estate Tax Dockets
a David 86-21
b Ursulla 130-8

5 Mortgages
a Peter (15) to William Leisenring
b Mathias (14) to William Leisenring

20 History of Tioga County - W.W. Munsell

21 History of Tioga County - R.C. Brown Co.- 1897
Pgs 215, 475

22 Tioga County Newspaper Extracts
1 Wellsboro Agitator
2 Mansfield Advertiser

23 Genealogical and Personal History of Northern Penna.
John W. Jordan

24 Tioga County Cemeteries
1 Vol 4 Champlin
2 Vol 5 Harold Plank Farm
3 Vol 4 Knowlton/Elk Run
4 Vol 4 Matteson Family/Hicks Run
5 ? Old Pioneer-Gaines Twp
6 ? Riverside-Deerfield Twp

25 History of Hunterdon, Juniata and Union Counties, Pa.

26 History of Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder Counties Vol. 1
Everts, Peck and Richards

27 History of Juniata Valley - Jordan

28 Snyder County Marriages - G.W.Wagenseller

29 Early Pennsylvania Births - Fisher 1675-1896

30 Early Penna. Marriages 1811-1853 - Charles A Fisher
Pages 9,17,19,32,106,228

31 Central Pennsylvania Marriages - Fisher 1700-1896

32 Newberry Library - Vol. 3
Persing Family --- Juniata Valley. Pa. - J.M. Runk & Co.
Ref to Fisher Family - C.W. Fisher - 1890

33 Our Keystone Families - Brossman
Columns 719, 750, 1276, 1277, 1288
Middletown, PA Press and Journal
Lebanon, PA Daily News
Copies of Columns in Pennsylvania State Library

34 Central Penna. Commemorative Biographies - Beers Pg. 922

35 Chronicles of Central Penna. Vol. IV - F.A.Godcharles
Pg 679

36 Book of Biographies 17th Congressional District, Pa.
Pgs 87,98,213,257

37 History of Bucks Co., Pa. - J.H.Battle

38 Tohicken Union Church Records - Rev. Wm. John Hinke
Also in Penna. German Society Proceedings - Vol. 31
Pgs 87,98,213,257

39 Trinity Union Church Records - Bucks Co., Pa.

40 History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe and Carbon Co's.
Daniel Rupp -1845 (incl Craig's or "Irish" settlement)

41 Early History of Allen Twp., Northampton County
Craig's or "Irish" Settlement

42 First in the Lehigh Valley
John Baer Stoudt and Charles R. Roberts

43 Miscellaneous Church Records
1 German Evangelical Lutheran - Easton, Pa.

44 Williams Township Congregation - Northampton Co., Pa

45 History of Venango County, Pa. - J.A.Caldwell

46 Venango County, Pennsylvania - Her Pioneers and People
Charles A Babcock

47 History of Venango County, Penna. - J H Newton - 1879

48 History of Venango County, Penna. - Edited by H C Bell-1890

49 Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen - H H Hardesty -1893

50 Venango County Courthouse Records
1 Deeds - Numerous Persing
2 Orphans Court
3 Wills
4 Marriage Records

51 Venango County Historical Society
301 So Park Street
Franklin, Pa. 16323

52 Genealogical Club of Oil City
P O Box 811
Oil City, PA 16301

53 Oil City Public Library
1 Cemetery Records
a Reno
b Bethel
c Nickleville Presbyterian
d Rynd Farm
e Lamey
f Maultby

2 Church Records
a Rockland Presbyterian
b Rockland Methodist
c Salem Lutheran (Seneca)

54 Pennsylvania Archives - Series III, Vol. 6
Pgs 117,121,124,126,128,129 (Lambert Pitner)

55 Pennsylvania Vital Records Vol. 3, Pg. 204

56 Forest County Courthouse, Tionesta, Penna.

57 United States Census Microfilms 1790 - 1920 Penna., 1840-1870 Ohio and New Jersey

58 National Archives
1 Military Pensions Records
2 Military Service Records

59 Historical Register and Dictionary of the U.S. Army, V.1

60 Veterans Administration Files or Penna State Library

61 Veteran's Burials All Wars - Various Counties of Pa.

62 Social Security Files - Persing
Death Records - Available on Internet

63 Miscellaneous Cemeteries
Maple Grove, Ravenna, Ohio

64 Miscellaneous Newspaper Articles

1 Oil City Pa. Derrick
2 Seneca, Pa. Kicker
3 Venango Citizen Press
4 Citizen Press
5 Venango Spectator
6 Unspecified
7 News Herald (Franklin, Pa.)
8 Union County Star
9 Lewisberry Chronicle
10 Elmira Gazette (New York)
11 Akron Beacon Journal (Ohio)
12 Topeka Daily Capital (Kansas)
13 Clyde, Ohio
14 Franklin News Herald
15 Allentown Morning Call
16 Harrisburg Patriot News
17 Stillwater News Press, (Oklahoma)
18 New York Times

65 A History of Springfield Twp., Columbiana Co., Ohio
Mabel Davis - 1977

66 Douglas County Historical Society (Kansas)
Watkins Community Museum
Lawrence, KS 66044

67 Tree Searcher, Vol. XIII - 1971

68 Stillwater, Oklahoma Public Library
Stillwater, OK 74076

69 Cemeteries of Paine County, Oklahoma
   a Coyle
   b Lawson
   c Clarkson

70 1890 Territorial Census of Oklahoma
   (Entire U.S. Census for 1890 destroyed in fire)

71 The Atlantic Bridge to Germany - Charles M. Hall

72 Where Our Ancestors Came From - Hermann and Gertrud Guth
   (In Mennonite Family History - April 1983)

73 Pennsylvania Pioneers -Strassburger-Hinke

74 A Collection of 30,000 Names - Daniel Rupp

75 LDS Ancestral Files and International Genealogical Index
   Available at local LDS Family History Centers

76 Generalindex Siebmacher 1605-1961 - Jager-Sunstenau

77 Historiches Ortsnamen Lexicon des Landes Oberosterreich

78 Miscellaneous Union County Records - Penna. State Library

79 Internet Family Documents D:\Famdoc\
   a 1212.1-.3
   b 133d.1-.3
   c 2113.1
   d 21131a.

79(cont) Internet Family Documents
   e 224.1-.4
   f 22424.1-.8
   g 226532.1,.2
   h 41121.1
   i 422.1-.4
   j 5312211.1
   k 54.1-.3
   l 61a.1-.5
   m 621.1,621a.1
   n 622421.1
   o 6231.1,.2

80 Internet Searches
   Persing, Person, Passing, Bassing, Bossan

81 Surrey County, Va. Wills

82 The Pioneer - Publication of Central Penna. Genealogical
   Pioneers

83 Junk Mail Solicitations
a Persings Since the Civil War
b Halbert's

84 Palatines to America
Capital University Box 101
Columbus, OH 43209

85 Familienkundeliche-Nachrichten
Postfach 1340
Nurnberger Str 27
D-8530 Neustadt/Aisch
Germany

86 George Washington's Expense Account
Available at many public libraries

New Jersey Reference Material

Sources pertaining to the Persing New Jersey homestead and the Person branch of the family. Many of these materials are available at the Easton, Pa. Public Library.

Na New Jersey Index of Wills

1 William (*) 154U, 155U
2 Jacob Person 1172U
3 Electa Person 1229U
4 Jacob Person 2109U
5 George Leffler, h/o Charlotte (30) 1839

Nb History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey - Snell

Nc Rosebury Inscriptions - Easton Library

1 Old Phillipsburg
2 St. James Lutheran (Straw) Church Vol. GR30
3 Washington
4 Mansfield-Woodhouse
5 Bloomsbury
6 Stewartsville
7 Harmony Presbyterian
8 Not Used
9 New Belvidere
10 Hackettstown Union

Nd Easton, Pa. Library Records

1 Records of Presbyterian Church 1807-1982, Harmony, NJ
2 Records of St. James Lutheran (Straw) Church, Vol GR30 Stewartsville, NJ
3 Records of Christ Church - Greenwich (mixed with St. James Lutheran) above
4 Records of German Reformed Church of Easton, (now United Church of Christ)
5 Records of Methodist Church, Lower Harmony, NJ
6 Records of German Evangelical Lutheran Church - Easton

Ne Family Bibles

1 Howard Person - Roanoke, VA - Descendants of Jacob (3)
2 Ethel Person Hoppock - West Portal, NJ ditto

Nf New Jersey Marriages - Nelson and Others

Ng Officers and Men of New Jersey Wars - Stryker

Nh New Jersey in 1793 - Norton

Ni Some of the First Settlers of the Forks of the Delaware Kieffer

Nj Early Germans of New Jersey - T.F.Chambers

Nk Revolutionary Census of New Jersey - Stryker-Rodda

Nl New Jersey in the War of 1812

Nm Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey

1 Vol. 9, (Records of St. James Lutheran Church)
2 Vol. 24 Pg 2 Sussex County Marriages
3 Vol. ?, II Regiment, N.J. Militia

Nn Family Histories

1 Bailey, Pg 346
2 Potts, Pg 331
3 Ackerman, Pg 84
4 Cushing/Shephard, Pgs 328, 482, 612, 672
5 Shrive (possible Person)

No New Jersey Archives - 1st Series
Vol 7, Pg 120; Vol 8 Pg 237; Vols 27,37,41

Np New Jersey Genesis - Pgs 590,726,795,798,800

Nq United States Census - 1830-1860
Sussex and Warren Counties

Nr Family Genealogies Held by Author

1 Howard R. Person 35521, Roanoke, VA - Desc of Jacob

Ns Courthouse Records

1 Warren County Petitions
2 Warren County Divisions and Partitions
3 Sussex County Property Deeds 1800-1834

Nt The Search - Howard R. Person - Roanoke, Va.

Nu Colonial Conveyances - Belvidere, NJ Library

Nv New Jersey State Archives
185 West State St. CN 307
Trenton, NJ 08625
a Tavern Keepers License Applications
b Deed Books - Sussex County

Nw Newspapers

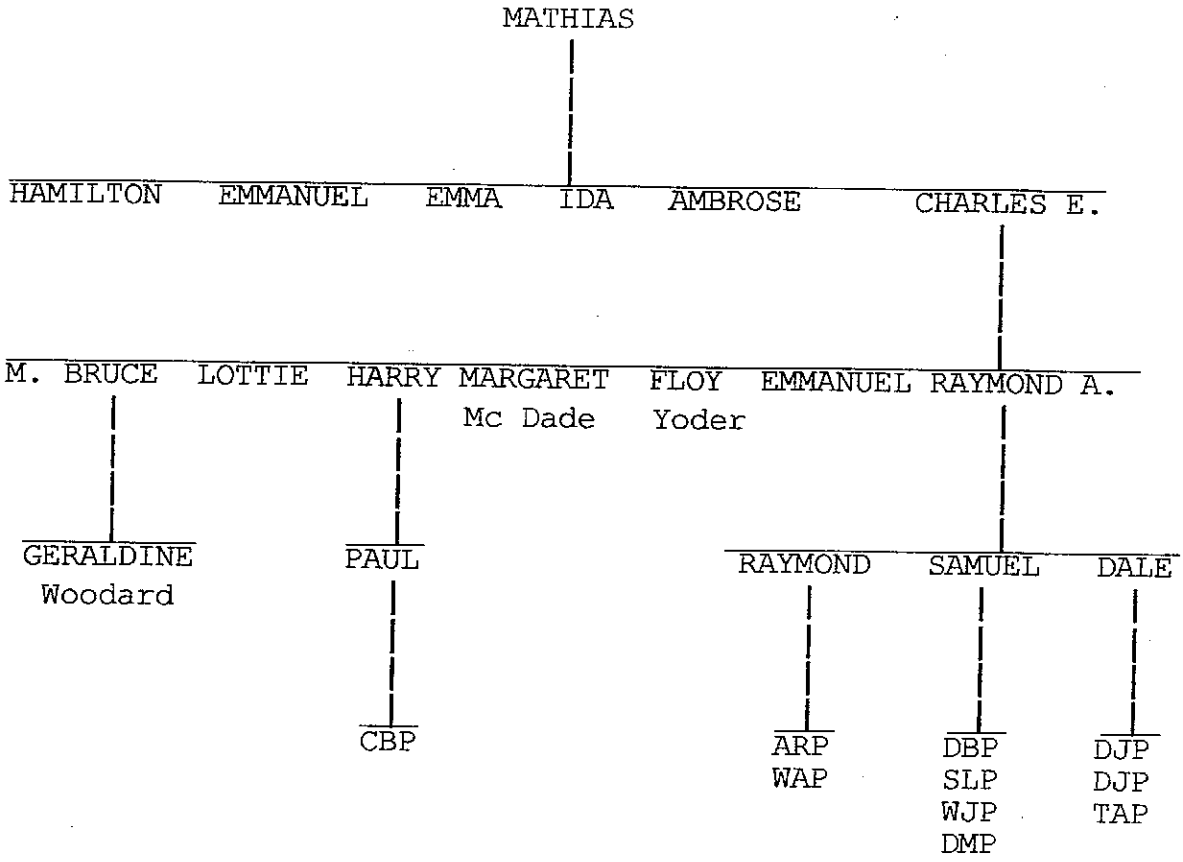
1 Easton Centinel
2 Easton Express
3 Easton Daily Free Press
4 Argus

Nx LDS (Mormon) Microfilmed Church Records

List numerous descendants of Jacob (3), some unidentified. Available from LDS Local History Centers.

Ny Our Greenwich - Easton Library

Nz Map of Harmony Twp., Warren County, N.J. ca 1850, (Pg 185)



AUTHOR'S KNOWN FAMILY AT START OF RESEARCH

Text of Note Appearing in the Family Bible of Dean W Persing

"Mary Persing Haas (40) gave to Samuel Persing Jun. (or possibly "just" instead of Jun.) a short time before her death (in 1860) a short account of the Persing family as she had heard it. William and Abram Persing came from Swatrakee, Germany early in the 18th century, settled near Belvidere, N.J. Did not know which was our ancestor. Next generation George Persing - next generation William Persing, 1st in above line. Mary Persing married John Haas in 1821 (who) Died May 7,1887. Matthias died (no entry). Isaac Persing died Oct. 20, 1890. John Persing died Apr. 22, 1880. The Persing family moved from Belvidere, N.J. to Shamokin, Northumberland Co., Pa. 1799."

Above this note there appears the names of William (4), his first wife Hannah, and the names of their seven children, along with dates of birth and some dates of death. Under the list of names a note says "The above in the handwriting of Matthias Persing".

Text of the Will of William Persing (*)

In the name of God, Amen, I William Persing of the township of Greenwich in Sussex county and State of New Jersey being infirm and weak in body, but of sound disposing mind and memory, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say: first, I do order that all my just debts and funeral expenses be adjusted and duly paid as soon after my decease as conveniently may be. Item. I give and devise to my son Philip Persing all that certain farm or plantation of land and premises whereon he now lives situate in Shamokin in Northumberland county and commonwealth of Pennsylvania bounded by lands of Matthias Persing, William Persing and others containing one hundred and twenty six acres of land with the usual allowance for highways, with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging, for and during the natural life of him the said Philip Persing, and at and after the decease of the said Philip I devise all the said lands and premises unto and among all the heirs of the said Philip to hold to them in equal shares thereof as tenants in common and to their heirs and assigns forever. Item I give and devise to my son Jacob Persing and to his heirs and assigns all that certain plantation or tract of land and premises situate in Greenwich aforesaid and whereon I now live bounded by land of Rev. Garner A Hunt, land of the heirs of Henry Bidleman deceased and others containing one hundred and forty seven acres, be the same more or less, with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or appertaining to have and to hold to him my said son Jacob Persing and to his heirs and assigns forever, subject never the less to the payment into my estate by my said son Jacob or his heirs and assigns of the sum of two thousand nine hundred three dollars and thirty three cents, into my estate, two hundred and sixty six dollars and sixty seven cents thereof to be paid on the first day of April next after my decease and so on in like yearly payments of two hundred and sixty six dollars and sixty six cents until the whole thereof be fully paid and satisfied. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son George Persing the sum of four hundred dollars including the sum of one hundred and six dollars and sixty seven cents, which I have advanced to him therewith under date of 27th August, 1805. Item, I give and bequeath to my son Mathias Persing the sum of five hundred and thirty three dollars and thirty three cents including the sum of five hundred and one dollars which I have heretofore advanced to him & charged him therewith, Item, I give and bequeath to my son Jacob Persing the sum of five hundred and thirty three dollars and thirty three cents, the same having been by me advanced to him and with which I have charged him, Item, I give and bequeath unto my son William Persing the sum of five hundred and thirty three dollars and thirty three cents including the sum of four hundred & sixty nine dollars which he has received and with which I have charged him as aforesaid. Item, I give and bequeath to my son John Persing the sum of five hundred and thirty three dollars and thirty three cents, which sum he has received of me in advance and charged him with as

aforesaid. Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Margaret, the widow of Paul Dewitt deceased the sum of two hundred and sixty six dollars and sixty seven cents exclusive and besides any and all monies or other property which I may have heretofore given or advanced to her. Item, I give devise and bequeath all the residue of my estate of whatsoever kind or wheresoever found or being unto and among my sons George Persing, Matthias, Jacob Persing, William Persing and John Persing to be divided between them share and share alike [excepting my son Jacob who shall have two hundred and sixty six dollars and sixty seven cents less than any of the others on account of a sum of that amount which he justly owes me for the lot of land on which his grist mill stands] and in case either of my last mentioned sons or my daughter shall die before me, then the devise or bequest herein made to such child shall descend to the heir or heirs of such child's body in equal portions thereof. And lastly I revoke all and every other will and wills by me heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this only to be my last will and testament of which I do hereby appoint my sons Jacob Persing and Matthias Persing and my neighbor Jacob Alshouse Executors thereof. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the twenty sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three. Signed sealed and declared by the said William Persing to be his last will and testament. In the presence of us. Note the interlineation of the words "and Matthias Persing" in the thin line of this page done before signing.

William Persing
possibly: Willem Passing or
Willem Pörsing

Garner A. Hunt

Tho Stewart

his
Gershom X Barns
mark

There are a total of eleven pages to the will, administrations, testaments, inventories, codicils, etc. The above covers only a portion of pages two to four.

Text of the Codicil for William Persing (*)'s Will in which Jacob's Surname is Changed from Persing to Person

State of New Jersey

Warren County S. Before me, on the ~~twenty fourth day of March~~ fifth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine, personally appeared ~~Jacob Person and~~ Jacob Person and Jacob Alshouse ~~one of the~~ Executors of the last will and testament of William Person deceased, the said Matthias Person having departed this life since the making of the same, ~~the said Jacob Persing being duly sworn on the Evangelists of Almighty God and~~ the said Jacob Person being duly sworn and the said Jacob Alshouse having alledjed (sic) he was consciously scrupulous of taking an oath and being solemnly affirmed; say that the foregoing writing contains the last will and testament of ~~the~~ said deceased so far as they know and as they (now? verily?) believe(-) that they will faithfully perform by paying first the debts of the said deceased, and then the legacies therein specified so far as the goods chattels and credits of said deceased can thereunto extend: that they will make and exhibit unto the Surrogates office of the County of Warren a true and perfect inventory of all and (singular?) the goods chattels and credits of said deceased that come to their knowledge or possession or to the possession of any other person for their use within six calendar months from the date hereof and render a just and true account of their administration when thereunto lawfully required. Sworn, affirmed and subscribed before me --Jn (M?) Sherrerd-Surrogate

(Signed:) Jacob Allshouse
his
Jacob X Person
mark

This document follows the Surrogate's record of the original will and also appears as an addition to the last page of the original will.

New Jersey Property Deed

THIS INDENTURE made the fourth day of the fifth month (May) in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy two between Thomas Pryor Jun.? of the City and County of Burlington in the Province of New Jersey, yeoman and Hannah his wife, and Samuel Pryor of the City of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania, yeoman of the one part, and Valentine Mets, William Person & Lawrence Minager of the Township of Greenage in the County of Sussex & Province of New Jersey, farmers of the other part,

WHEREAS Ebenezer Large being legally seised of rights for unlocated lands did survey a certain tract of land situate in Greenage in the County of Sussex (then called Morris County) containing five hundred and one acres with allowance for highways, as by the certificate thereof bearing date the twelfth day of July in the year of our Lord 1753 recorded in the Surveyor Generals Office in Burlington in Lib. S. fol. 199 more fully may appear, which tract of land having since been run out & resurveyed by John Rockhill is bounded and described as follows (to wit). Beginning at a post and heap of stones in the line of a tract of land surveyed to Clark Rodman and is the corner fixed on by John Rockhill and Daniel Ellis for a corner between the tract now describing and land claimed by John Hughes, formerly Rebecca Wheeler's, then along said line, being the line fixed on by the said Rockhill and Ellis, South fifty-four degrees thirty minutes, West ninety-two chains and sixty links to the line of land surveyed to Robert Lucas, eight chains and eighty-seven links to the southward of a well known black oak formerly marked for a corner to said survey to Lucas and then lettered R.L., which letters appear to have been since alter'd and look now something like RLN, then along the said line of said survey to Lucas, North four degrees and thirty minutes, West five chains and fifty-seven links to a post in said line of Lucas, three chains and thirty links southward of said described black oak, then along a line of land surveyed to Samuel Scholey, North twenty-four degrees, East sixteen chains and seventy-five links to a heap of stones, corner to Scholey's survey, then North one degree, West twenty chains and fifty links to a heap of stones, corner to Scholey on the Top of the Mountain, then by land of Daniel Smith, North eight degrees, East eighty-six chains to a post and stones, said Smith's corner, then North one chain and a half to a post and stones being fifty links south, forty-eight degrees east from a white oak lettered E.L.and D.S., then along a line of land surveyed to Samuel Nevill, near East about thirty-seven chains to a corner of said survey to Clark Rodman, then in his line South twenty-two degrees, East thirteen chains to a dead oak tree, another of said Rodman's corner, then still by the same, South sixty-five degrees, West eleven chains to a white oak, then still by the same, South twenty-three degrees, East sixty chains and sixteen links to the place of beginning. Containing five hundred & twenty three acres strict measure.

AND the said Ebenezer Large being seised thereof by his last will and testament dated the third day of October in the year of Our Lord 1749 duly proved & recorded in the Prerogative [New Jersey Probate Court] Office in Burlington in Liber 10 folio 134 &].a after disposing of several other parts of the estate devised the residue and remainder of his estate whether real or personal inclusive of the above tract, one moiety or half part to his daughter Jane Burling her heirs and assigns forever. AND the other Moiety or half part to his grandsons Thomas Pryor Jun., Joseph Pryor and Samuel Pryor their heirs and assigns for ever, to be equally divided between them and in case of the death of the said Jane Burling in the lifetime of the testator, her share or moiety was to go to her three children, Mary Burling, Jane Large Burling & Hannah Burling their heirs and assigns forever, which said Jane Burling, dying before her father, the said moiety accordingly vested in her said three daughters in fee. AND the said Joseph Pryor by his indenture of bargain & sale dated the thirteenth day of the eleventh month (November) in the year of our Lord 1763 conveyed all his right in and to the said Ebenezer Large's estate unto his brothers, the aforesaid Thomas Pryor and Samuel Pryor in fee, by virtue thereof they became intituled [sic] to the one moiety of the estate devised as aforesaid by the aforesaid last will.

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the directions and appointment of the said will, a division or partition was made by and between the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor and the aforesaid Mary Jane Large and Hannah Burling, and other lands being allotted to the s(aid) Mary Jane Large and Hannah, in lieu thereof their shares or right in and to the premises aforesaid was allotted to and vested in the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor as by an instrument of writing containing the said partition and allotments, dated the thirteenth day of the first month (January) 1764 and recorded in the Secretaries Office in Burlington in Liber T, folio 196, on a reference thereto more fully will appear.

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of an agreement made between the aforesaid Ebenezer Large, Daniel Smith and William Hewlings, at or before the location of the said tract of land, and a subsequent between the said Daniel Smith and William Hewlings, the said Daniel Smith had an equitable right to a moiety of the said land. Therefore, in order justly to comply with their grandfather's prior engagements and the said agreement between Smith and Hewlings, the said Thomas Pryor, Joseph Pryor and Samuel Pryor, as executors of the last will and testament of their said grandfather Ebenezer Large, and the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor as devisees and grantees entitled as aforesaid by their indentures dated the fifteenth and sixteenth days of the fourth month (April) in the year of our Lord 1765, granted and conveyed the one moiety of the said tract (with other lands under the like circumstances) to the said Daniel Smith in fee, as by the said indentures recorded in the Secretaries Office aforesaid in Liber. X folio 337 & 339, more fully may appear. AND the said Daniel Smith being seised of a moiety made in

partition with the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor of the said tract of land and premises by their indentures of partition and release mutually executed, bearing date the fifth day of September in the year of our Lord 1770, ascertained the division line or lines between them as follows (to wit). Beginning in the line between the land of John Hughes and the said tract, twelve chains westerly from the cornerstones mentioned for a beginning corner in the above inserted boundaries, thence North thirty-five degrees and thirty minutes West, thirty-four chains, thence South eighty-four degrees West about thirty-five chains to the outside of westerly line of the tract, which two lines it is computed will divide the said tract nearly in equal quantities, the part lying southwesterly of the said division lines being agreed to be the part of the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor jointly and the part lying northerly and easterly of the said lines to be the part of the said Daniel Smith, allotting, releasing and conveying the part lying southwesterly of the said line or lines to the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor, and the part lying northerly and easterly of the said line or lines to the said Daniel Smith, as by a reference to the part of the said indenture executed by the said Daniel Smith, and a plan of the whole tract as well as the partition lines thereon protracted, more fully may appear.

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the said Thomas Pryor and Hannah his wife and Samuel Pryor, for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred and twenty three pounds, to them paid by the aforesaid parties of the second part, the receipt whereof or security for the same, the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor do hereby acknowledge, and the said parties of the second part of and from the same do acquit and discharge, HAVE aliened, granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do alien, grant, bargain and sell unto the said parties of the second part and to their heirs and assigns, the moiety or half part of the tract of land above mentioned, allotted, released and conveyed as aforesaid to the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor, situate lying and being southwesterly of the (????) division line above express'd. Together with all and singular buildings, improvements and rights and liberties, hereditaments and appurtenances thereon or thereto belonging, AND all the estate, title, interest, property claim and demand whatsoever of them the said parties of the first part in and to the same, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises with their appurtenances above granted, or intended to be, unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns. To the only use and behoof of the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns forever, AND the said Thomas Pryor and Samuel Pryor each for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators do covenant and agree to and with the said parties of the second part in manner following (to wit) that they the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor immediately before and at the execution of this deed were and are the true and lawful owners of the lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises with their appurtenances hereby conveyed or intended so

to be, and lawfully seised in their own right of a good, sure, perfect, absolute and indescraible [sic] [indescribable?) estate of inheritance in fee simple of and in the same, without any manner of condition, mortgage limitation of use or uses or other matter, cause or thing to alter, change or determine the same; AND ALSO that they the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor and their heirs respectively and every other person and persons, and his and their heirs, anything having or rightfully claiming in the said lands tenements hereditaments and premises with their appurtenances, by from or under them or either of them, shall and will from time to time and at all times, upon the reasonable request and the proper costs and charges in the law of the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns, make and execute or cause to be made and executed all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable act or acts, thing or things, device or devices whatsoever for the further better and more perfect granting, conveying and assuring of the said lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises with their appurtenances, hereby granted or intended so to be unto the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns to the only use and behoof or the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns for ever, as by the said parties of the second part, their heirs or assigns or his or their council, learned in the law, shall be reasonably devised, advised and required, AND LASTLY that the said Thomas and Samuel Pryor and their heirs respectively, the said lot of land, tenements, hereditaments and premises with the appurtenances against all and every person and persons whomsoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof unto the said parties of the second part their heirs and assigns, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties to these presents have interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first above written:

Thos Pryor Jun (seal) Hannah Pryor (seal) Samuel Pryor (seal)
Sealed and delivered in the presence of Robt Smith, Samuel Hendry.

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the fifth day of the fifth month May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy two, 1772, personally appeared before me Robt Smith one of the judges of the court of common pleas for the county of Burlington, Samuel Pryor, Thomas Pryor and Hannah his wife the grantor of the within written deed and did severally acknowledge they sealed and delivered the said deed for the use and purposes therein mentioned, and the said Hannah being examined apart from her said husband acknowledged that she executed the said deed freely and voluntarily without any threats or compulsion from her said husband. Acknowledged the day and year above written.

Recorded May 9th, 1772. Before me Robt Smith

SUSSEX COUNTY, N.J. DEEDS

Book	Page	Grantee	Grantor	Year
R	52	John Passing	William Allen	1807
N	447-450	William Allen? Jacob Person	Jacob Person? William Person	? 4-1-1798
D	278	Jacob Persing	Lawrence Minnegar	1800
D	409	William Persong Described as being on the East side of the great road from Easton Ferry to the Sussex County courthouse.	Lawrence Minnegar	1800
L	373	Jacob,John,William Persing	John Gardner	1804
Q	713	Matthias Persong & wife Hester This is the family at Knowlton, Sussex County, N.J. The deed includes names as follows: Catherine Persun/Persong, Margaret Persing, Martha Persen, Mary Persong, Catherine Persong, Andrew Persong Jr.	John Swank	1807
R	480	Andrew Persong Jr.	Matthias Persong	1808
X	301	Jacob Persing	William Persing	1811
A2	105	John Persing Property adjacent to Daniel Smith, Balser Domer	William Persing	1813
E2	89	Jacob Persing	John Persing	1815
G2	172	John Persing (Oxford Twp)	George Butler	1816
G2	443	Timothy Persing (Herlestown?)	Ebinezer Condict	1816
H2	229	John Persing	William Lerch	1817
N2	70	William Persing Jr.	William And Barbara Persing	1819
Q2	407	Jacob Persing	John W. Persing	1821
W2	419	William Person Jr.	Thomas F. Stewart	1822

Book	Page	Grantee	Grantor	Year
Z2	165	Amos Person	James Bradberry	1824
J3?Q3	116	Joseph Person Jr.	Joseph Person Sr.	1834

POSSIBLE RELATED FAMILIES

PERSON FAMILY OF KNOWLTON, N.J.

In researching New Jersey records, I have found records of the following individuals who may be related in some way to William Persing. Often the surnames appear in these records with the same variations of spelling that appear in records of William Persing(*).

Name	Record
Andrew Persong Sr	Inv of estate 1026s b.ca1760, d.ca1804 Oxford Militia 1793
John Person	Inv of estate 708s, d. intestate 01Feb1796 Oxford Militia 1793, wife Catherine d.1829, will
Mathias Persong	m. Hester Freeman, Knowlton 27Dec1803
Betsey Person	m. Jacob Swisher, Knowlton
Elijah Person	m. Margaret Swisher, 15Nov1804,Hardwick
Esther Person	m. John Maines, 14Jul1808
Phoebe Person	m. David Ogden, 03Mar1803
Margaret Person(g)	m. George Smith, 27Mar1807
Mary Persong	m. James Jacob Fox, 18Dec1806
Andrew Persong Jr	Knowlton 1800-1810, 1850 Albany, N.Y.
John Persong Jr.	Inv of estate 1424U 1859, Oxford Militia 1793

OTHER PERSON REFERENCES

Andreas Person	N.J. Genesis[Np], Pg 800
Francis Persong	Inventory of estate of Curt Hummer, Amwell Twp., Hunterdon Co., N.J. 1786

BASSINGER FAMILIES

The following family of New York is documented in a genealogy written by Eva S. Kline:

Andreas Bassinger		b <1717, arrived "Hope" 1717
Sephrenes	"	b 26Aug1737,d 14Jan1830, Springfield, N.Y.
Andreas	" Jr	
Maria Eliz	"	b 02Jul1743
Margaret	"	b 18Feb1745
Anna Cath	"	
John	"	d <1824

A genealogy of the family of Abraham Bassinger of Northampton and Monroe Counties has been documented by the author and is available from him for further research.

A Rationale for the Identity of William Persing(*)/Person as John Bossan and Johan Wilhelm Bassinger
In Tohicken Union Church Records,
Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pa.

The names Johan and Wilhelm are generally used in the original records. Both Johan Wilhelm and John William appear in transcriptions of the originals.

"Floyd's" Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, Pa.[5] states that William Persing(*) came to America prior to the Revolutionary War with his wife and two children. Interpolation of then known dates of birth of his offspring (Catherine born 13Feb1759 and Margaret born 23Apr1762) gave an arrival date of about 1763. A search of ship passenger lists in this time period was fruitless. "Floyd's" information appears to be faulty due to the following records found while doing research at the Orlando, Florida Public Library.

1. From the records of the Tohicken Union Church[38], Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pa. - 1925 Rev. William John Hinke, also published in Vol 31 of Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings[38] Penna. State Library at Harrisburg:

Pg 87 Baptismal record of Maria Catherine Barbara DRUM born 16Sep1752(7?) bap. 16Oct1757 - d/o John Drum and Maria witnesses John BOSSAN and Barbara DRUM.

Pg 213 Marriage record of Johan Wilhelm BOSSAN and Barbara DRUM 01Nov1757.

Pg 98 Baptismal record of Maria Catherine BASSINGER dob 13Feb1759, bap. 10Apr1759 - Parents William BASSINGER and wife Barbara, witness Philip DRUM and wife.

Pg 87 Baptismal record of John YEAGER, dob 31Aug1752, bap. 16Oct1757 - Parents John Yeager and Elizabeth

2. From previously obtained records[Nd] of the German Reformed Church of Easton, Pa. and Christ Church Greenwich, N.J. and Harmony Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Harmony, N.J.

1788 William PASSINGER appointed to consistory of the "Straw" Church (St. James Lutheran and Christ Reformed)

1793 William PASSINGER appointed a deacon in the same church

1795 Baptismal record of John PASSINGER dob 06Dec1794, bap. 02Feb1795 - Parents Mathias and Catherine PASSINGER - Godparents John and Catherine YEAGER.

1817 Catherine YEAGER is buried beside her parents William and Barbara PERSON at Harmony Presbyterian Church - dob on stone is Feb 13, 1759

1795 Baptismal record of Maria Cathrina PERSON dob 29Nov1795, Parents Wilhelm and Hannah PERSON - Sponsors Wilhelm PERSON and Barbara

3. From various Northumberland County, Pa, records:

The surnames PERSING and PERSON are used interchangeably in church[11] and U.S. Census records[57] in the early 1800's.

4. From various Sussex and Warren County, N.J. records:

Sussex County Tax Lists and Land Transfers - Contained in Revolutionary Census of New Jersey[Nk]

William Bossan and Mathias Bossan - 1773
Sussex County Land Transfers - 1772

William PERSON and Others - Property at Greenwich

U.S. Census[57] for Warren County, N.J. - 1830 and 1840

The surnames Persing and Person are used for the same persons in the U.S. Census of 1830 and 1840, respectively. Proof is given elsewhere in this volume.

5. The above records also show the use of Passinger and Person in the German Reformed records at Easton and Greenwich for the same persons. Proof is also given elsewhere in this volume.

From the author's familiarity with the variant surnames, the family relationships, the various localities, and primary documentation, he has concluded that William Persing of Greenwich Twp., Sussex/Warren Counties, NJ is also referred to as follows:

Bucks County, Pa.

Johan Wilhelm Bossan
John Bossan
Wilhelm Bassinger (Passinger)

Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J.

William Bossan
William Passinger
William Person

Northumberland County, Pa. Property

William Persing

The documentation for William Persing's presence in Bucks County in 1757 suggests that the "Floyd" account is inaccurate and probably based on hearsay. A search of ship passenger lists based on an earlier date of arrival and inclusion of the given name John in the Bucks County marriage record was again inconclusive, although some slight argument could be made for a "Johanes Peroing" or "Johanes Perring" who appears on List 201C, Richard & Mary, 17Sep1753. Because this name appears as "Johan Swarin" or "Johann Swerin" on Lists 201A and 201B and as "Johannes Behring" in Pa. Archives Series II, Vol 17 Pg 391 there seems to be little likelihood that he was William Persing. However, William was married in 1757, four years from the above arrival date. Four years was the term of an "Indentured Servant". There is some evidence that William served a period of indenture. Again this is inconclusive.

Evidence for the Identification of Godfrey Person of Lower Harmony as William Persing, 18th Century Immigrant from Alsace/Lorraine

In 1980 I began genealogical and historical research of my family, the Persings of Northumberland County, Pa. I soon found that our immigrant ancestor William Persing, my ggg grandfather, had settled in Greenwich, New Jersey "before the Revolutionary War". Ref. Pgs. 94,175 Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County, Pa.[5] - J.L.Floyd Publishing Co. 1911. In searching through Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J.[Nb], I learned of the mystery surrounding the identity of a Godfrey Person of Lower Harmony, probably the earliest settler of the region. I was intrigued by this problem because I had found evidence in the U.S. Census[57] of 1800 in Northumberland County, Pa. that my ancestors once used the surname PERSON.

In researching William Persing in New Jersey I found his will[Na1] recorded at Belvidere and obtained a copy of the original from Trenton (County Code 159U). In reading it I discovered that William had a son Jacob and that his name was changed in a codicil dated 05Sep1829 from Jacob PERSING to Jacob PERSON. This discovery led me to attempt to locate some present day descendants of Jacob. I was successful in contacting Howard Person (35521) of Roanoke, Va. through his cousin Preston who was then living in the Washington, N.J. area and now lives in Raleigh, N.C. Howard has a family bible which lists the descendants of Richard, son of Jacob and also notes Jacob's death. I then obtained a copy of the will[Na2] of a Jacob Person of Harmony, N.J. filed for probate 05Oct1854. The will named a Richard as one of Jacob's sons, so I was pretty sure that this was the same Jacob as found in Howard Person's bible.

Further reading of these two wills revealed some interesting similarities between the information found in them and the statements that Snell had recorded concerning Godfrey Person. I began to suspect that Godfrey was really my ggg grandfather William Persing.

The following evidences are submitted to support my theory. It is assumed that the information in "Snell" is correct in the essentials although it is clear that if the theory is true he was wrong about the given name Godfrey and also that there was only one descendant, Jacob. I find no real difficulty in the incorrect given name because of the date (1881) of Snell's history and the fact that Jacob's sons John and Jeremiah had "removed from the township". For the same reason Snell's informants had probably not been personally acquainted with William Persing (died 1829) or "Godfrey" of Revolutionary times, nor did they have any knowledge that the five other sons of William Persing had all removed to Northumberland County, Pa. by 1811. In addition Snell has stated that the early pioneers of Harmony left nothing in the way of documentation of their presence there. All of this suggests that whatever is said in Snell was said at the best recollection of the informants, leaving much room for the facts, especially names, to be confused.

From Snell's History of Sussex and Warren Counties, N.J.[Nb]

Pg 671 - Godfrey Person was located at Lower Harmony before the (Revolutionary) war and during its progress was a popular landlord.

Pg 675 - He erected a clover mill and built and kept a tavern (used as a blacksmith shop in 1881). --- Mr. Person left one son Captain Jacob who inherited the property and remodeled the old clover mill, later owned by sons John and Jeremiah. The old clover mill located upon a brook running through the place has since been converted to a grist mill owned by William Vanatta. (1881)

Pg ??? - A mill built by John Sharp ca1809 was known as Holdern's Mill (in 1881). Captain Person built a mill on the same stream in 1812.

Pg 680 - Joseph Howell, son of John and son-in-law of George Geasarrh (said) that "his father (John Howell) used to go over to Person's on the mountainside to mill".

Note that Godfrey Person was present in Greenwich before and during the Revolutionary War, that he erected a clover mill, left his property to son Jacob who later (it is said) left it to sons John and Jeremiah. Jacob also built his own grist mill in 1812 and the Person mill(s) were located "on the mountainside", descriptions having similarities to the map cited next and the present Harker's Hollow Country Club property.

From a Harmony Twsp. Map ca 1850

Two mills are shown along a stream (Lopatcong) near the site of the present day Harkers Hollow Country Club golf course. In addition some homesites in the same area are identified as property of P. Person and J. Person. I understand that the remains of a mill are located on the west side of highway 519. This is possibly the Person mill. Northeast, near Oxford is a property marked Wm. Person.

The following segments of information from various documents cite similarities to the Snell account of Lower Harmony, Godfrey Person and his son Jacob Person:

From "Floyd", Pg 675

"William Persing was born in Germany, and coming to this country settled in Jersey before the Revolutionary war. Washington camped at one time near the Persing home and the family was honored with his acquaintance. ---- He and his wife died in New Jersey. (They are buried at the Harmony Presbyterian Church - author.) Their family was as follows: William Jr., George, Philip, Jacob, John, Tyson (Mathias is the correct name - author), Margaret, and another daughter." (The "other" daughter is Catherine Person Yeager buried next to her parents at Harmony - author.)

From "Floyd", Pg 94

"AMBROSE PERSING --- Several generations ago the family was settled in New Jersey where William Persing, great-grandfather of Ambrose Persing lived at Greenwich in Sussex County."

These two references show that William Persing was a resident of Greenwich before the Revolutionary War.

From the will of William Persing (Code 159U)

A close reading of this will and associated records indicates that both William Persing and Jacob Persing are referred to at various times as William Person and Jacob Person. In some cases the name Jacob Persing is crossed out and reinserted as Jacob Person. Jacob's signature in a codicil appears as Jacob PERSON.

From Pg 2 of the will: "I give and devise to my son Jacob Persing and to his heirs and assigns all that certain plantation or tract of land and premises situated in Greenwich aforesaid and whereon I now live bounded by land of Rev. Garner A. Hunt, land of the heirs of Henry Bidleman, deceased and others containing one hundred and forty-seven acres" etc. (Needs research to positively identify the land of William Persing. A deed listed in Colonial Conveyances[Nu] Book A-E, Pg41, Thomas Pryor et ux and others to Valentine Mets and others (including William Person) may cover the above named property in part.)

From Pg 3 of the will: "excepting my son Jacob who shall have two hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents less than any of the others on account of a sum of that amount which he justly owes me for the lot of land on which his grist mill stands" (shows that Jacob Persing built a grist mill prior to 26Sep1823.)

Pgs.4,8 of the will: "Before me, on the ~~twenty fourth~~ fifth day of ~~March~~ September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty nine, personally appeared ~~Jacob Person~~ Jacob Person and Jacob Alshouse, Executors of the last will and testament of William Person deceased, the said Mathias Person having departed this life" etc. "the said Jacob Persing being duly sworn" etc. (evidence that Jacob Persing and William Persing were also identified as William Person and Jacob Person).

Conclusions: These excerpts show that Jacob Persing/Person inherited the property of William Persing/Person, that Jacob Persing/Person had built a gristmill on land sold to him by his father Wiliam before 1823 and that Jacob Persing/Person had become an executor of the will due to his brother Mathias' prior death.

From Pg 10 of the will: - Inventory:

article of agreement wherein Jacob Persing is bound for $2666.66
one (bond) John Persing (Jacob's son) 20.

one do William Persing (Jacob's son) 40.00

art. against William Persing J. (Jacob's son) 18.50

These are proofs that Jacob Persing/Person had sons John and William. Snell refers to sons John and Jeremiah as heirs to the gristmill. See next reference.

From Jacob Person's will (Code 1172U)

The will names as his heirs, sons William, John, Jeremiah, Isaac, Richard, Christopher, and daughter Charlotte Person Leffler Smith.

It appears that Jacob Person left no real estate to any of his heirs. It is likely that he transferred his land and gristmill to sons John and Jeremiah before his death. It does show that he had sons John and Jeremiah as Snell reports and sons John and William as recorded in William Persing/Person's inventory.

Jacob Person's signature appears in both wills. Because the signature on his own will is that of an octogenarian, I cannot draw any conclusion other than that there are definite similarities to J and P on both documents. An expert should be consulted.

From the U S Census of Warren County, N.J.:

Year	Place	Name	Age	Hshld
1830	Greenwich	Jacob Persing	60-69	414
1840	Harmony	Jacob Person	?	?
1850	Harmony	Jacob Person	83	369
1830	Greenwich	John Persing	30-39	413
1840	Harmony	John Person		277
1850	"	Jehu Person (John)	?	369
1860	"	John Person	63	
1830	Greenwich	William Persing	30-39	412
1840	Harmony	William Person	?	276
1850	"	William Pursing	55	338
1860	No record has been found			
1830	Oxford	Jeremy Person	?	361
1840	"	Jeremiah Person	?	297
1850	Belvidere	Jeremiah Person	47	
1860	"	Jeremiah Person	59	?
1850	Harmony	Christopher Person	39	359
1860	No record found			
1850	Harmony	Richard Person	41	367
1860	"	Richard Pearson	52	

Conclusions:

1. That the persons named Persing in 1830 are the same ones named Person or Pursing or Pearson in subsequent years.

2. That some of these persons are at least contemporaries of the PERSONs named in Snell.

3. That Jacob Persing/Person may be the same one identified by Snell as a descendant of Godfrey Person.

4. That William Persing/Person/Pursing, John Persing/Person, Jeremy/Jeremiah Person, Christopher Person and Richard Person (Pearson) are the same ones identified in the will of Jacob Person cited above.

Much research remains to be done but the author is unable to pursue this matter at the present time. This information is compiled in the interest of the history of Warren County and especially of Greenwich and Harmony Townships with the hope that my conclusions will lead to the positive identification of Godfrey Person.

CHAPTER 17

Some Persing Military Veterans

Name	LC	Organization	War
William	*	Possibly member of N.J. Militia	Revolution
George	1	Possibly member of N.J. Militia	Revolution
John	11	PA Militia(Capt. Sam'l Benjamin)	1812
William	31	NJ Militia	"
Reuben	111	Co. H, 46th PVI Wounded	Civil
Joseph B	113	Co. H, 93rd Reg "Baldy Guards"	"
Stephen	1212	Co. B, 184th PVI Wounded	"
"		Co. H, 21st Reg Rsv Corps	"
Illif	213	Co. F, 178th PVI	"
Riley	215	Co. B, 7th Reg	"
"		Co. F, 12th Cavalry	"
"		Co. F, 113th Reg PVI	"
"		Co. H, 172nd Reg	"
Morris	224	Co. A, 15th Reg Indiana	"
"		Co. F, 56th Reg PVI	"
"		Co. L, 1st NY Artillery	"
Hugh	313	Co. C, 31st Reg New Jersey	"
Richard	35	Harmony, NJ Guards, Captain 2nd Btn, 1st Reg, Warren Co Brg NJ Militia, 13Aug1861	"
Lewis Z	351	15th Reg, NJVI Died in service	"
George W	411	Co. L, 2nd PA Cavalry	"
Henry W	421	Ohio Infantry, Ist Lt., Capt.	"
Samuel	423	Co. A, 72nd Ohio VI	"
Emmanuel S	541	Co. F, 104th PVI	"
Daniel	622	Co. F, 121st PVI, 1st Brg Wounded	"
William H	?	Co. F, 71st PVI	"
William A H	?	Co. E, 208th PVI (Perry Co)	"
"		Co. L, 74th Reg. (Berks Co)	"
Alba or Albert	?	8th Michigan Infantry	"
William H	48112	Co. E, 71st Inf KIA	WWI
Carl Ely	53121	US Army	"
Lloyd C	53122	"	"
William E	54111	" Chemical Division	"
Wilber O	62311	110th Aero Sqdn Sgt	"
"		313th Aero Sqdn	"
Herbert	62242	?	"
Edw M	?	Co. I, 28th Inf, Pvt.	WWI ?
Burl H	11141	Reg HQ Co,276th Inf Reg,70th Div	WWII
Howard	35521	US Navy, SB2C Aircraft Squadron	"
Amos V Jr	54112	77th Fld Artlry, 18th Brg, Capt.	"
Raymond A	54431	80th Inf Div, 3rd Army	"
Samuel H	54432	4025th S.S. Unit Philrycom	"

Name	LC	Organization	War
George W	622151	US Navy	WWII
Willard O	623111	US Navy	"
Harold	6231121	US Naval Reserve 1942-1945	"
Dale B	54433	Signal Corps Germany	Korea
Bobby Frnk	622413	US Air Force 1952-1956	"
Lawrence D	111411	U S Navy 1967-1971	Vietnam
James N	355213	U S Air Force 1976-1999	?

HARMONY

Scale 200 Rods to the inch

EVERY NAME INDEX FOR CHAPTERS 1-17

UNKNOWN)
Agatha 130
Sarah 119
ACKERMAN 156
Hazel 96
ADAMS
Diane 117
Hester 76
W Francis 86
William 129
ALEXANDER
Amanda 82
ALLEN
Elizabeth 82, 113
William 169
ALLSHOUSE
Jacob 56, 162
John 95
Roy 127
ALSHOUSE
Jacob 163
AMES
Jonathan 100
ATKINS
Arthur 67
Katherine (Minnie) 67
Lola 67
Robert 67
AYERS
Abram 73
BACON
Mary 101
BAILEY 156
BAKER
Harry 127
Katie 15
Katie (Catherine) 75, 76
Laurine 127, 146
Pat 127
BARNES
Gershom 162
BASSANIN
Anna Catherine 133
Margaret 134
BASSIN 135
BASSING
Abraham 45
Mathias 32
BASSING(ER) 135
BASSINGEIN
Catherine 133
BASSINGER 33, 142, 171
Abraham 44, 46, 142, 171
Andreas 171
Anna Catherine 171
Barbara 20, 133, 173
Catherine 21
Johan Wilhelm 22, 173
BASSINGER (cont.)
John 171
Margaret 171
Maria Catherine 20, 133, 173
Maria Elizabeth 171
Sephrenes 171
Wilhelm 174
William 20, 46, 133, 135, 173
BASSINGER/PASSINGER 44
BASSON/PASSINGER 23
BASSONG 133
Catherine 133
BATMAN
Hattie 131
BEERS
Susan 97
BEHRING
Johannes 22, 175
BELL
Eleta 67
BENJAMIN
Samuel 65, 71, 183
BERGER
Twylla 146
BIBLEHEIMER
Verna 92
BIDLEMAN
Henry 56, 161, 179
BILLINGS
Silas 65
BIRD
James 64, 71
Joseph 107
BOSEK
Frank 68
BOSSAN 23, 135
Johan Wilhelm 22, 173, 174
John 21, 173, 174
John William 20
Mathias 55, 174
William 44, 55, 59, 174
BOSSAN/(B)PASSING(ER)/PERSON/PERSING 20, 21
BOSSAN/BASSING(ER)/BOSSUNG/BOSSING/PIERSON 45
BOSSAN/BASSINGER/PASSINGER/PERSON/PERSING 46
BRADBERRY
James 170
BRITTON
Amy 5, 8
BROSSMAN
Schuyler 18, 44
BURGERT
Annette 45, 61

BURLING
Hannah 166
Jane 166
Jane Large 166
Mary 166
BURNETT
Amanda 98
BUTLER
George 169
CALDWELL
John, Rev. 120
CALKA
Jane 67
CAMP
Benjamin 71
David 73
CAMP (CROMP)
David 76
CAMPBELL
James 123
Susanna 123
Trudy 27, 146
CASEY
Catherine 117
CHAFFEE 13
CHERRY
Elizabeth 76
CLARK
Dan 4
Isabelle 76
Lynn 4
CLEAVELAND
Moses 100
CLEES
T O, Rev. 110
CLEVELAND 147
Grover 17, 100
Hannah 100
James 17, 100
Moses 17
CODA
Flossie 127
COLE
Lola 66
Wallace 67
Warren 66
COLVER
Electa 90, 97
COMSTOCK
Clara 101
CONDICT
Ebinezer 169
CONRAD
E Hope 14, 81, 145
Hope 82
Joseph 15, 145
COOKE
Catherine 117
Edwin 117
Frederick 108, 109, 117
Ida 109, 117
Sarah 117
CORKLIN
Minnie 146
Minnie Persing 19
CORNELL
Cora 125
COSTLEY
Maria 103
COYLE
Hazel 129
CROMP
David 85
CROWL
Clara 77
Jackson 77
CULP
Helen 5, 6, 8, 145
CUSHING 156
DERR
Anna 7, 18, 102
Hannah 102
William 102
DEWEY
Marjorie 68
DeWITT 147
Margaret 161
Margaretha 96
Paul 134, 161
DIEFENDERFER
Alexander 115
Carl 115
Daniel 115
Jean 115
Louella 115
Minnie 115
Norma 115
DIERUFF
Louis 114
DIMMICK
Adam 76
Elizabeth 119
Margaret 7, 99
Peter 146
DIMMIG
Peter 103, 119
Sarah 86
DOMER
Balser 169
DONAVAN
Verna 92
DRUM 21, 46, 147
Adam 17, 21
Barbara 20, 21, 45, 55, 59, 61, 63, 133, 137, 173
John 21, 45, 61, 133, 173
Maria 21, 45, 61, 133
Maria Catherine Barbara 21, 45, 61, 133, 173
Philip 20, 21, 45, 61, 133, 173
Simon 45, 61
DRUM/DRUMM/TRUM/TRUMP 61

DUNKLEBERGER 147
DYKE
Betty Jane 126, 127, 146
Betty Jane Persing 18
Daniel 127
David 127
Raymond 18, 126, 127
ELLIS
Daniel 165
ELY 147
EVELAND
Mary 123
EVERETT
John 103
EXLEY
Myrtle 92
EYER
Oscar 26
FAGLEY
Mary 69, 72
FENSTERMACHER
G Dewey 115
FISHER 147, 150
John 71
FLUGGE
Dorothy 14
FOX
Catherine 71
David 64, 71
Hannah Elizabeth 71
James Jacob 171
Margaret 64
FREEMAN
Hester 171
FREW
Josephine 102
Josephine Persing 17
FRUTCHEY
Peter 95
FULLER
Mary Magdalene 69
GAGE
Abraham 26
GANO
Ida 98
GARDNER
John 169
GARRISON
Betsey 65
GARVERICK
Joseph 85
GEASARRH
George 52, 178
GEIST
Elizabeth 103
GIGLIO
Carol 67
Charles 67
David 67
Harold 67
Joseph 67
Sarah 145
Sarah Persing 7, 11, 12, 67
GOBLICK
Joseph 85
GOELZER
Bernd 39
GONSER
Andrew 87
Catherine 87
Samuel 87
GOSS
Elizabeth 86
Isaac 77
John 76
Maria 81, 82
Mary 76
GRABLE
Ellen 27, 146
Steven D 27
GRAHAM
Alice 130
GRANZOW
Frederick 102
Fritz 18, 102
Grace 7, 18, 145
GRAY
Dan 27, 123
Daniel 146
Kathryn 27, 146
Sarah Anne Persing 27
William M 124
GRUN-DITZ
Ulrich 39
GUTH 47
HAAS
Ida 119
John 103, 160
Mary Persing 23, 24, 33, 34, 49, 160
HAIR
Carol Sue 147
Carol Sue Persing 26, 28
HAKES
Angelina 72
Cora 68, 72
Ira 72
HALL
Jean 17
Charles 38
HAMMERS 80
HARNET
Hannah 99
HAUCK
Eleanor 13
HAUER
Elizabeth 72
Michael 72
HAUSE
Bertha 125
Bertha Persing 27
Mark 27, 146
HEFFLEY
George 120

HELT
Edith 145
Edith Alice Persing 7
Edith Persing 3, 4
HENCH
J C 130
HENDERSHOT
Gus 126
James 126
Margaret 126
Margaret/Margot 125, 127
HENDRY
Samuel 168
HERB
Albert 72
Hannah 72
HERTZLER
Ben 76
HESS
Elizabeth 113
Howard 113
Mamie 113, 114, 116
HEWLINGS
William 166
HITEMAN
William 98
HOAGLAND 9, 147
HOFFMAN
Hannah 69
Henry 64, 69
Nancy 4
Peter 10, 12, 69, 71
HOLLEN
Joe 1
HOPPOCK
Ethel 90, 92
Ethel Person 155
HOWELL
John 52, 95, 178
Joseph 51, 178
HOYER
Charlotte 15, 16, 145
Charlotte Gambill 78
HUEY
Catherine 125, 126
HUFF
Karen 131
Ruth 127, 131, 146
Ruth Persing 19
HUGHES
John 165, 167
HUMMEL
Johannes 103
John 76, 85
Mary 120
Solomon 76, 120
HUMMER
Curt 32, 171
HUNT
Garner 56, 162
Garner, Rev 161, 179
HURLBERT
Fred 66
Harry 66
Jerry 66
Jesse 66
Nellie (Tice) 66
JACKSON
Gloria 67
JAGER
John 133
JENKINS
Burris 79
JERRY
Maria 103
JOA
Gracie 131
JOHN
Eliza 149
Griffith 26
JOHNSON
Adam 119
JONES
Elsa 18
KAUFFMAN 69
KEELY
Minnie 115
KEENY
Joan 15
KEMP
Charlotte 77
Charlotte Persing 15
Frederick 78
Isabel 78
William 77, 78
KERLIN
J W 81
KERNATTE 100
KERSHNER
Fanny 72
Magdalena 69, 72
KIRKPATRICK
Elizabeth 27, 83, 145
Elizabeth R 14
James 83
James A 14
Magnolia Persing 14
Robert B 14
KLINE
Margaret 97
KNOBLE
Andrew 108
KNOEBEL 10
Gladys 70
KNOUSE
Aberham 83
Elizabeth 83
Lydia Ann 83
KRICK
John 86
Mary 86
Mary Ellen 86
Solomon 103

KRIEGER
Mary Jane 76
KRIEGER and AMMERMAN 76
KUBY
Alfred Hans 45
Alfred, Dr. 135
KURIATNYK
Christy 146
Christy Persing 27
LARGE
Ebenezer 165, 166
Mary Jane 166
LARKINS
Anna Eva 107
Anna Eve 119
LATAS
Salette 6, 7, 18, 145
LEE
Lovina 101
LEFFLER
Charlotte 155, 180
George 95, 155
Levi 98
LEGLER
Fred 80
LEISENRING
Jacob 64
William 64, 73
LERCH
Susan 108
William 169
LESZCZYNSKI
Stanislaus 43
LEWIS
Ed 79
Peggy 125, 129
Sarah 79
Sarah Persing 80
LONG
Catherine 87
James 105
LONGTON
Savannah Persing 79, 80
LOVE
David, Rev 124
LUCAS
Robert 165
LUCKENBACH
Eva 10, 63
John 63
LYNN
Joseph 64
MacARTHUR
Douglas 110
MAINES
John 171
MAJOR
M T 28, 146
MALICK
James 98
MARTIN
Grace 14
MATTISON
Sarah (Sally) 66
McCLOUD
Elizabeth 117
McDADE
Calvin 110
Margaret 110, 159
McDONALD
Amanda 82
McGUIRE
June 147
June Persing 27
McLAUGHLIN
Celestial 76
McWILLIAMS 10, 12
Kate 12
Katie 12
Olive May Persing 12
MEISER 134
Joe 117
Joseph 9, 14, 141
MELLON
Rachel 125
METS
Valentine 32, 34, 165, 179
METS (METZ?)
Valentine 32
METTS
Valentine 95
METZ 147
Valentine 52
MILLER
John 75
MINAGER
Lawrence 32, 34, 165
MINNAGER
Lawrence 52
MINNEGAR
Lawrence 169
MINNEGAR (MINIER)
Laurence 32
MOLL
Isaac 86
MONG
Mary 101
MOON
Sarah 126, 130
MOORE
Margaret 68
MOREHART
Pearl 6
MOSER
Elizabeth 83
MOYER
Jacob 119
Mahala 14
Sarah 119
Susan 14
Susanna 81
MULLEN
Florence 125

MYER
John 75
MYERS
Emma 125, 127
Martha 146
Martha Persing 19
NEVILL
Samuel 165
NEWMAN
John 69, 87
NICHOLS
Dorothy 108
NIEPP
Joseph 100
O'NEILL
Anna 125
OGDEN
David 171
OSBORN
James 71
OSMAN
James 71
OWEN
Cora Persing 80
OWENS
Cora Persing 79
PAGE
Julia 87
PARENT
Ephraim 108
Joanna 108, 109, 117
PARSON
George 63, 71
PASLEK or PASCALL
Charles 67
PASSING
John 169
Willem 50, 162
PASSING/PERSING/PERSON/PERSONG
23
PASSINGER 22, 33, 75, 142
Abraham 32, 51, 135
Abram 23
Catherine 34, 75, 85, 87, 173
John 30, 34, 75, 76, 85, 87, 134, 173
John William 21, 22
Mathias 29, 34, 75, 85, 87, 134, 173
Wilhelm 174
William 22, 29, 34, 134, 173, 174
PASSINGER/PERSING/BOSSAN/PERSON
53
PASSINGER/PERSING/PERSON etc 34
PASSINGER/PERSON 174
Abram 23-25, 135, 136, 142
PASSINGER/PERSON/PERSING
Abram 16
PASSONIN
Catherine 133
PAUL
Roland 45
PEARSON
George 63, 71
Lewis 91
Richard 181
William 103
PEARSON/PIERSON 54
PENMAN
John 6, 18, 146
PENN
John 138
PENNOCK
Edward 96
PENSYL
Estella 108
Kersey 73
PEROING
Johanes 22, 175
PERRING
Johanes 175
Johannes 22
PERSEN
Martha 169
PERSEY
John 66
PERSHING
John J 27
John J, General 40
PERSHING/PERSIN/PFIRSING/
PFOERSCHING 22
PERSIN 23
PERSING 23, 90, 99, 134, 147, 150, 154
"Sam" 19
Aaron 125
Abigail 103
Abraham 18, 19, 87, 123-125, 127, 129-131, 138
Abram 160
Ada/Addie 125
Adam 5
Agnes 129
Alba 183
Albert 69, 105, 183
Alfred 73, 76, 77, 85, 105, 109
Alice 125, 130
Alley 77
Alma Stack Peace 86
Alonzo 73
Alphonso 27, 73
Ambrose 1, 75, 108, 117, 120, 159, 179
Amelia 125
Amos 6, 120, 145, 183
Amos, M.D. 108
Andrew 27, 76, 77
Anna 7, 18, 82, 105, 119, 125
Anna Eve 120

PERSING (cont.)
Arlene 85
Arthur 114
Asa 72
Austin 130
Austin/Curtis 125
Barbara 2, 6, 25, 30, 35, 50, 53, 54, 56, 57, 63, 65, 89, 99, 107, 123, 133, 134, 169
Barbara Drum 61
Benjamin 5, 120, 138
Bertha 27, 125, 129
Bessie 100
Betty 19
Betty Jane 18, 126
Betty Lou 127
Betty Lue 19
Blanche 73
Bobby Frank 130, 184
Brian 26, 146
Bruce 111, 113
Burl 11, 65, 66, 68, 145, 183
C Ely 5, 6, 11, 68
Caleb 14, 81, 82, 87, 120
Calvin 86
Carl Ely 183
Carol Lee 68
Carrie 104, 117, 127
Catherine 18, 64, 68, 71, 76, 81, 86, 104, 119, 134, 149
Cecelia 86
Celestial 76
Charles 1, 5, 13, 69, 78, 109, 110, 112, 119, 145, 147, 159
Charlotte Frances 78
Chester 27, 86, 104
Christopher Bruce 113
Clara 101
Clara Bell 68
Clarissa 104
Claud 27
Cora 68, 72, 125
Cora (Hakes) 67
Cordelia 27, 104
Curtin Andrew Gregg 125
Curtin U S G 130
Curtis 130
Dale 113, 116, 117, 159, 184
Daniel 4, 6-8, 18, 19, 69, 74, 102, 105, 117, 120, 125-127, 129, 183
David 10-14, 27, 64, 66-68, 70, 72-74, 76, 115, 116, 145, 146, 149
Dean 16, 17, 23, 24, 37, 49, 100, 101, 135, 145, 147, 160
Diane 117
Donald 6, 13, 18, 145, 146
Dorothy 14, 80, 145
Douglas 115
Earl 86
Ed 1, 109
Edith 3
Edna 105
Edward 1, 2, 14, 80, 105, 109
Elaine 145
Eleanor 13, 87, 145
Eli 76, 77, 86
Elijah 73
Elizabeth 4, 5, 66, 68, 72, 76, 78, 85, 104, 105, 112, 113, 117
Elizabeth (Lydia) 66
Elizabeth Allen 83
Elmer 82, 83
Elsa 146
Elsa Jones 18
Elwood 64, 70, 73
Emanuel 120
Emily 3
Emma 120, 125, 127, 159
Emmanuel 75, 108, 117, 141, 159, 183
Essie 104
Estella 108
Esther (Hester) 69
Everett 126, 130
Fanny 72
Florence 13, 109, 125
Flossie 127, 130
Floy 110
Frank 73, 79, 80
Franklin 73
Fred 12, 74, 146
G Solomon 123
George 3-5, 7-12, 24, 56, 63-65, 67-72, 74, 76, 103, 104, 119, 120, 123, 130, 133, 137, 145, 149, 160-162, 178, 183
George Henry 66
George Schindel 73
George Solomon 119
Geraldine 111
Gertrude 127
Gifford 14, 19, 128, 146
Gladys 10, 14, 70, 74
Grace 14, 120
Graydon 26
H Walter 4, 120
Hamilton 75, 117, 120, 159

PERSING (cont.)
Hannah 8, 10, 12, 17, 63-65, 68, 71, 72, 103, 125, 160
Hannah? 7
Harold 184
Harriet 73, 86, 105
Harry 4, 5, 12, 16, 74, 86, 87, 110, 112, 119, 120, 145, 159
Harry Jr 74
Harry Walter 7, 8
Harry, M.D. 11, 145
Hattie 101
Helen 87
Henrietta 26
Henry 104, 183
Herbert 28, 130, 183
Hester 5
Hilbert 26
Howard 77, 85
Ida 68, 72, 119, 121, 159
Ida Haas 119
Ida Margaret 104
Idella/Ida 125
Illif 13, 76, 183
Ina 19
Irene 77, 85
Irving 79
Isaac 160
Israel 13, 15, 69, 76-78
J J 126
Jack 11, 73, 145
Jacob 4, 5, 15, 22, 23, 29, 30, 32, 36, 52, 54, 76, 78, 85, 89, 95, 119, 149, 161-163, 169, 177, 179-181
Jacqueline 68
James 73, 79, 184
Jane 16, 145
Jean 115, 116
Jeanne 117
Joan 13, 14, 145
Joan Marie 67
Joanna 109, 117
John 1, 4-6, 8, 11, 14, 18, 22, 28, 52, 54, 56, 63, 65-67, 71, 72, 83, 87, 89, 104, 107, 108, 119-121, 125, 129, 130, 138, 160-162, 169, 178, 180, 181, 183
John Harris 67
John W 169
John Wesley 5
John William 119
Jonas 76
Joseph 15, 23, 65, 71, 82, 183
Josephine 102
Julie Ann 5
Karen 131
Kate 105, 119
Kathryn 74
Katie 73
Kellie 28, 146
Kimber 4, 145
Lambert 82, 83, 87
Lambert Pitner 13
Laura 77
Lawrence 26, 68, 184
Lena 76, 146
Leo 77, 86
Lillie 5, 145
Lillie Bell 82
Lloyd 105, 183
Lola 67
Lorena 100
Lottie 159
Louis 100, 101
Lovina 73, 101, 104
Lovina/Lena 125
Lucille 27
Lucy 11
Luella 125
Lula Myrtle 26
Luther 27
Lydia 76, 82, 87
M Bruce 2, 111, 159
Mabel 14, 145
Magdalena 72
Magnolia 14, 83
Malcolm Bruce 110
Mamie 113, 114, 116, 120
Margaret 7, 56, 64, 71, 76, 87, 103, 109, 110, 129, 169, 178
Margaret Alice 119
Margaret/Margot 127
Margaretha 103
Maria 76
Maria Anna 72
Maria Catrina 99
Marj 11
Marshall 11, 12, 68
Marshall Albert Foster Lee 104
Martha 27
Mary 23, 24, 33, 34, 49, 66, 73, 86, 87, 101, 103, 104, 120, 125, 130, 160
Mary A 125
Mary C 120
Mary Catherine 119, 125
Mary E 125
Mary J (Jennie) Wallize 78
Mary M 125

PERSING (cont.)
Mathias 1, 2, 13-15, 17, 56, 57, 64, 65, 68-70, 73, 75, 76, 81, 83, 85, 87, 100, 103, 107-109, 117, 120, 123, 133, 137, 149, 159, 161, 178
Matilda 76
Matteis 2
Matthias 160-162
Melinda 125
Mildred 130
Miles 67
Miller 76
Minnie 19, 73, 130, 149
Morris 14, 27, 82, 83, 87, 183
Myrtle 125
Nancy 4, 86, 116, 145
Nancy Pitner 81-83
Nora 125
Norma 115
Norman 27, 146
Olive May 12, 73
Orpha 130
Oscar W W C 125
Pardoe 83
Paul 112, 113, 159
Peter 10, 64, 68-70, 73, 104, 130, 149
Peter Peoria 19, 127
Philip 3, 8, 16, 18, 19, 35, 53, 56, 68, 123, 124, 127, 129, 131, 138, 161, 178
Phillip 116
Phoebe 73
Rachel 71, 125, 130
Ray 109, 110
Raymond 116, 183
Raymond Jr 113, 114
Raymond Sr 113, 114
Rebecca 76, 85, 103, 119
Reily/Riley 86
Reuben 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 65-68, 72, 120, 183
Rexford 19
Richard 4, 14, 145
Riley 13-15, 76-80, 183
Robert 66-68, 86
Roger 4
Ron 12
Ronald 68
Rose 112
Rudy 13, 86
Ruhanna 4, 6-8, 18
Russell 16, 101
Ruth 4, 19, 127, 131
Ruth Isabel 120
S Catherine 6, 119
Sam 79, 80, 115, 116
Samuel 49, 100, 101, 104, 113, 114, 130, 146, 159, 160, 181, 183
Samuel H 139, 183
Samuel Pardoe 14, 87
Sara 119
Sarah 2, 5, 11, 15, 103, 104, 109, 110, 112, 117, 120
Sarah (Sally) Mattison 66
Sarah Anne 27, 124
Sarah Catherine 6
Sarah Jane 4, 125, 145
Sharon 115
Shawn 27, 146
Sidney 4
Sofia 119
Stephen 26, 69, 72, 183
Sumner 19
Sumner/Sam 125, 130
Susan 6, 14, 119
Susanna 76, 85, 103, 125, 131
Susanna Moyer 81
Sydney 145
Teis 2, 15, 75, 85, 99
Thom 15
Thomas 15, 145
Timothy 169
Todd 117
Tyson 2, 15, 75, 85, 99, 178
Ulysses 80
Ursula 73, 149
Vernita 5
Walter 13, 86, 126
Washington 121, 138
Wayne 114, 146
Wendy Elizabeth 68
Wilber 183
Wilbur 126
Wilda 2, 111
Willard 105, 183
Willem 50
William 1, 6-8, 12, 17, 21-25, 29-33, 35, 37, 38, 40-43, 45, 46, 47, 49-54, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 66, 69, 72, 75, 76, 79-83, 86, 87, 89, 90, 99, 104, 105, 107, 115, 119, 123, 124, 129-131, 133-135, 138, 142, 160-162, 169, 174, 175, 177-181, 183

PERSING (cont.)
William (*) 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22-25, 29, 34, 49, 53-55, 63, 65, 70, 71, 85, 90, 91, 95, 103, 119, 123, 129, 136-138, 142, 155, 160, 161, 163, 171, 173
William A H 183
William E 131, 183
Wiliiam G 131
William H 2, 15, 183
William Jacob 119
William Jr 7, 16-18, 24, 56, 75, 99-103, 123, 137, 178, 180
William M 18, 19, 28, 125, 126, 130
William Riley 72
William W 8, 24
William, M.D. 108, 120
Zelna 5, 6, 11, 12, 68, 145
PERSING ?
Sarah 119
PERSING (By adoption)
Karen 131
PERSING and COOKE 117
PERSING and KNOBLE 108
PERSING AUTO SALES 4
PERSING BROTHERS 108, 117
PERSING TAXIDERMY 130
PERSING/PERSON 29, 31, 32, 53, 89, 90, 93, 133, 139, 142, 174
Abram 32
Barbara 34, 49, 75
Catherine 49, 50
George 49
Margaret 49
Mathias 50
William 34, 49, 55
William (*) 31, 33, 75
PERSING/PERSON/(B)PASSINGER/BOSSAN
Johan Wilhelm 37
PERSING/PERSON/PURSING/PEARSON 181
PERSING/PERSONG 135
PERSING/PÖRSING/PASSING 56
PERSINGSKI 22

PERSON 22, 23, 33, 89, 90, 99, 134, 156, 171, 177
Abram 38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 49-51, 55
Amos 170
Andreas 171
Barbara 20, 21, 31, 34, 35, 51, 54, 75, 89, 99, 103, 107, 133, 134, 174
Benjamin 23
Betsey 171
Catherine 20, 21, 34, 51, 53-57, 61, 75, 133, 134, 173, 178
Charles 90, 95, 96
Charlotte 95, 96, 180
Christina 95
Christopher 52, 98, 180, 181
Clarence 91, 96
David 96
Dickie, Captain 90
Edgar 96
Edith 91, 92
Eleanor 96
Electa 90, 97, 155
Elijah 171
Elizabeth 96
Esther 171
Ethel 90-92
Ettie 96
Ezra 96
Frank 98
George 21, 55, 61, 99, 134
Godfrey 33, 35, 51, 56, 59, 90, 95, 142, 177, 178, 181
Hannah 34, 103, 174
Helen 91, 92
Henrietta 96
Henry Lee 97

Howard 31, 35, 36, 89-93, 142, 147, 155, 156, 177, 183
Hugh 95, 96, 183
Isaac 97, 180
J 90, 178
J Russel 31, 91
Jacob 22, 23, 29-36, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 89, 90, 93, 95-98, 137, 142, 155, 156, 163, 169, 177-181
Jacob B Jr 96
Jacob, Captain 33, 95, 178
James 30, 97
James K Polk 98
Jane 95
Jeanne Lore 93
Jehu 180
Jeremiah 29, 51, 95-97, 177, 178, 180, 181
Jeremy 22, 89, 180, 181

PERSON (cont.)
Jessie McCloud Bell 91
Joan 96
John 22, 29, 32, 51, 54, 95, 96, 135, 171, 177, 178, 180, 181
John R B 90-92
Joseph 97, 98
Joseph Jr 170
Joseph Sr 170
Julia 95, 96
Kathy 93
Levi 91
Lewis 35, 90, 91, 97, 183
Lizzie 96
Louisa 96
Lydia 95
Mabel 96
Margaret 171, 173
Margaretha 97, 134
Maria 95
Maria Catherine 34, 59, 103, 133
Maria Cathrina 34, 99, 174
Mary 30, 90, 95, 97
Mary Elizabeth 96
Mary Stucker 91
Mathias 21, 23, 51, 55, 89, 99, 134, 179
Matthias 163
Molly 72
Mrs 23
Myrtle 93
Myrtle Exley 92
P 90, 178
Phoebe 171
Preston 31, 35, 36, 177
Rebecca 95, 103
Richard 30, 31, 89-91, 93, 97, 177, 180, 181, 183
Richard Henry 90, 97
Russel 97
Sally 90
Sarah 97
Verna 91, 92
W 90
Wilhelm 34, 103, 174
Wilhelm (*) 34
William 20-23, 29, 31, 32, 35, 49, 51-56, 72, 89, 91, 95, 97, 99, 107, 133, 134, 163, 165, 169, 173, 174, 178-181
William (*) 21, 75
William Jr 169
PERSON/(B)PASSINGER
Abraham 33
PERSON/PASSINGER
Barbara 21
William 21
PERSON/PERSING
Abram 33
Jacob 32
Johann Peter 72
Magdalena 72
Wilhelm 72
William 33
PERSON/PERSING/PERSONG 33
PERSONG 23, 39, 134
Andrew 32, 171
Andrew Jr 169
Catherine 169
Francis 32, 171
George 72, 134
Hannah 72
Hester 169
John 171
Margaret 171
Mary 169, 171
Mathias 171
Matthias 31, 169
William 169
PERSSON 33, 137
PERSUN
Catherine 169
Philip 35
PERSUN/PERSEN/PERSON/PERSING 31
PESING
George 10, 63
PIERSON
Amanda 98
Christopher 98
Jacob 75, 89
Jeremiah 96
Levi 91
Lewis 91
Mathias 75, 89
PITNER
Lambert 76, 81, 83, 86, 152
Nancy 2, 76, 81, 82
POCHRAN
Jeanne 117
Joseph 117
Verna 117
POFF
Lillie 5
PÖRSING
Willem 50, 162
POTTS 156
PRALL
Elizabeth 96
PROPER
Wilda 111
PRUSAN
Cathrina 105
Edward 105
Peter 105
PRUSONG 23
PRYOR
Hannah 165, 167, 168
Joseph 166
Samuel 32, 165-168
Thomas 32, 34, 165-168,179

PUMMILL
Ina 19, 146
PURSEL
Jack 31
PURSING
William 22, 54, 180, 181
RAKER 5
George 109
Henry 119
Mary 109
Sarah 109, 110, 112, 119
Susan 119
RAUP 147
REED
Hannah 102
RENNER
Betty Lou 127, 146
Betty Lue Persing 19
Clare 127
REVELL 147
RHODES
Amy 5, 6
Amy Britton 8, 145
ROADARMEL 147
ROAT
Emma 87
ROBERTS 147
ROCKHILL
John 165
RODMAN
Clark 165
ROHRBACH
Emanuel 6
Pearl 6, 145
Susan 145
ROSEBURY
Mrs. 61
RUNKEL
Catherine 7, 104
RUSSELL
Emeline 100
William 100
RUTTER
Mary Catherine 96
SAMPLE
O L 80
SANFORD
Flossie 127
Mary 19, 146
SAY
Idella/Ida 125
SAYLES
Wavil M 26
SCHINDLER
Milton 80
SCHIVE
Henry 6, 8
Laurie 6
Ruhanna Persing 6
Salette 6
SCHMIDT
Armand 114
Babbette 114
Elfriede 114
SCHNEIDER
Elizabeth 133
SCHOLEY
Samuel 165
SCHOLL
William 76
SCHOOLEY
Bill 6
Martha 145
Martha Persing 6
William 27, 146
SCHOONOVER
F J 66
Maria 66
SEELANDER
Johannes 39
SEIBLE
Florence Persing 80
SEIBLES
Florence Persing 79
SEVENSON
William 85
SHARP
John 51, 178
SHEIB
John 76, 85, 119
SHELEY
Donald 5, 6
Vernita 145
Vernita Persing 5
SHEPHERD 100, 156
SHERRERD
John 163
SHIPE
Elizabeth 76, 78
SHOUP
David 130
Mary 130
Mary M 125, 126
SHRIVE 156
SHUCK
Leota/Otie Persing 15
SIMPSON
John 63, 71
SLACK
Barbara 26, 69, 146
SLOAN
D E 125
SMELTZER
Anna 105
SMITH
Charlotte 180
Daniel 32, 165-167, 169
George 171
John 32, 95
Robert 168
SMULLEN
J W, Esq 130
SNELL
Georgia 127
Willis 127
Willis Jr (Bud) 127

SNYDER
John 75
Joseph 2, 15
Michael 2, 15, 145
SOBER 14, 69
Freeman 81, 87
Mahala 14
Mahala Moyer 81
SOUDERS
Marilyn 27, 146
SPELLMON
Kathy 93
SROUFFE
Harriet Mae 87
STACKPOLE
General 36
STAFFORD
L 80
STAPLEY
Paul 115
Rebecca 115
Sarah 115
Sharon 115
Steven 115
STAYCE 147
STEWART
Thomas 162, 169
STINE
Hannah 119
Henry 119
STOKER
Alida Persing 82
STOKES
Zelna 5
STONE
Abigail 100
STOWE
Abigail 100
STRASSBURGER 20, 21, 133, 147
STUCKER
Mary 90, 91
Mary Elizabeth 90
STULZ
Peter 68
SWANK 147
Clarence 104
John 169
Mary Ellen 86
SWARIN
Johan 22, 175
SWEENEY
Jim 12
Nancy 10, 12, 146
SWEETMAN
Willard 96
SWERIN
Johann 22, 175
SWISHER
Jacob 171
Margaret 171
SYKORA
Ted 68
TAYLOR
Mary 70, 73
TEITSWORTH
Alfred 6
Catherine 119
Isaac 6, 119
John 104
Mary 6, 18, 104
William 104, 119
TEMPLIN
Catherine 8, 18
Hannah Persing 8
Hannah? 7
THODE
Ernest 38
THOMAS
Hiram 72
THURSTON 147
Israel 103
TICE 66
TRUMAN
President 110
TRUMP
Johann Adam 147
UNGERER
Reverend 103
UPDYKE
Helen 92
VAN HORN
Louella 115
VAN HORNE
Louella 115
VAN TASSEL
Rick 26, 146
VANATTA
William 51, 178
VASTINE
Amos 108
Catherine 108
WALIZE
Harriet 77
Mary (Jennie) 77
Michael 77
WALTER
Charlotte 12
WALTERS
Mary 125
Mary Catherine 125
WARD
Beatrice 91
WARNER
Dell 72
WASHINGTON
General 53
George 52, 56, 178
WASTLER
Leo 45
WEAVER
Mary 125
WEETER
Anna Eliz 125
Elizabeth 129
Frances 125
Henry 125
WETMORE
Clara Bell 68

WHEATON
Egbert 66
WHEELER
Rebecca 165
WHITE
Jane 16
WHITTENBERGER
Diana 126
WICKWIRE
Hattie 100, 101
WIENS
Donna 27, 146
WILLEVER
Peter 98
WILLIAMS
Minnie 72
WILLS
Amelia 77
WINTER
Edith 91
WOLFGANG
Anna 105
John 105
WOLIVER
Hester 83, 87
WOLLMERSHAÜSER
Friedrich 39
WOLVERTON
John 85
WOODARD
Fran 111
Geraldine 109, 111, 146, 159
Gerry 68, 111
Gerry Persing 2, 11
John 110
John B 111
John L 111
YANONI
Lucy 11, 68
YASECKO
Eddie 130
YEAGER 21
Catherina 85
Catherine 34, 75, 87, 134, 173, 174, 178
Catherine Person 20, 30, 54, 57
Elizabeth 133, 173
Florence 145
Florence Persing 13
John 20, 21, 30, 34, 75, 85, 87, 133, 134, 173
John Sr 133
Lucinda 64, 69
William 69
YOCUM 147
Frank 77, 87
Hester 69, 73
Irene 85
James 68, 72
John 73
Peter 69, 71, 72
YODER
Florence 109
Floy 159
Floy Persing 16
John 109, 110
YORDY
Amanda 79, 80, 86
YOST
Harriet 105
William 105
YOUNG
Emily 3
YOXTHEIMER
Mary 109
ZIMMERMAN
Emmanuel 103